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HISTORICAL MEMORIALS
OF
Ely Cathedral

*In Two Lectures delivered in Cambridge
in the Summer of 1896*

BY
CHARLES WILLIAM STUBBS D.D.
Dean of Ely

- i. *The Shrine of S. Audrey*
- ii. *Alan de Walsingham*

LONDON
J. M. DENT & CO.
67 S. JAMES'S ST. S.W. & ALDINE HOUSE E.C.
1897

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HISTORICAL MEMORIALS OF
ELY CATHEDRAL

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Acts of S. Etheldreda.
 from a supposed Altar Piece,
 early XV century.

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To the dear Memory
OF
MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER

"Animæ sanctorum in manu Dei"

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The Illustrations in line are from drawings by

MISS H. M. JAMES

Preface

THE two Lectures of which this book mainly consists were both delivered in Cambridge last year to popular audiences. The first was given under the auspices of a Young Men's Literary Association belonging to the town, the second at the request of the University Syndicate which organised the Summer School for Extension Students. At the close of my second lecture I was asked by several members of the University, to whose judgment I was bound to defer, to put both lectures into some permanent form. In preparing them now for publication, I have taken the opportunity of adding such additional matter as I thought likely to emphasize my original purpose of stimulating in my hearers a desire to study for themselves both the history and the architecture of S. Awdrey's great Foundation.

I have prefixed to the lectures a Chronological Table, which I trust may be found useful, both by the student of Church History who wishes to get a firm grasp of the continuity of events at Ely, and also by the intelligent visitor to the Minster who desires to form some accurate conception of the gradual development of its many and various architectural features. In compiling this Table I have had the inestimable advantage of having before me

Preface

a very complete list of all the early Convent Benefactions drawn up some years ago by Archdeacon Chapman from the original returns made to William the Conqueror by the "Juratores" of the County of Cambridge. I have, however, myself verified all his references to the "Inquisitio Eliensis" in Mr Hamilton's edition. To the antiquarian knowledge and erudition of the same colleague and friend I am indebted for many details, historical and architectural, not hitherto published, which appear both in the lectures and the notes; and certainly without his inspiring guidance I could never have acquired even that modicum of familiarity with the priceless treasures of our Capitular Muniment Room, which alone gives any temporary value to this book, and which, at least, has fired me with the hope that as the years of my antiquarian apprenticeship go on I may be permitted to contribute further material of more permanent value to the history of Ely Minster. I am much indebted also to our Sacrist and Precentor (the Rev. J. H. Crosby) for permission to make use, for the purposes of my second lecture, of his transcripts from the Obedientary Rolls of the Monastery and from the "Receptus Custodis Capellæ Beatæ Mariæ." I sincerely trust that some opportunity will shortly be found of making accessible to the student of Monastic and Church History, under his editorship, the text of these ancient documents, with all the detailed evidence they supply of the splendid administrative work of a great Benedictine House in the fourteenth century. To the artistic talent of one of our minor Canons (the Rev. Herbert Campion) I am under

Preface

much obligation for a very large number of special photographs,—out-of-the-way bits of sculpture, ancient seals, royal charters, pages of the “*Liber Eliensis*,”—a very small number of which, I regret to say, it has been found possible to reproduce in the present volume. Without his help, however, Miss James would have found her charming line drawings of the sculptured “*Acts of S. Awdrey*,” from the lofty Octagon corbels, quite impossible. From his photograph also of the ancient fourteenth century Cope, in the possession of the Dean and Chapter, the reproduction of the famous “*Ely Sprig*,” which has been utilised in the design for the cover of this book, has been copied. My grateful thanks are also due to the Society of Antiquaries for its kind permission to produce as a frontispiece a copy, in photogravure, of the early fifteenth century painted panels, in all probability a portion of a mediæval altar piece at Ely, or it may be of the panels of the stall canopies, at present in its possession at Burlington House.

In ancient days the pilgrims to S. Awdrey's Shrine were given, it is said, by the Ely monks, tiny iron shackles,—“the S. Awdrey's chains” of plaited ribband in later times—in memory of their visit and in commemoration of a certain miraculous act of the Saint. If in anything I have said in this book I shall help to attach, by any smallest link even, the memories of Englishmen to those national traditions of valour and truth, and freedom and justice, of which a great Cathedral Church is surely the most vivid historic witness, and if, also, any word of mine should

Preface

tend to bind upon the consciences of our many kinsmen from across the sea,—who in increasing numbers year by year travel on “the Palmer’s way” to Ely, and whose arrival in our island sanctuary it is always a special pleasure to welcome,—the facts of our common inheritance from the Pilgrim Mother Church of the early days, her simplicity of faith, her warmth of worship, her assiduity of service, her reverence, her loyalty, her love, characteristics I trust to be ever inherent in men of the old English strain, I shall be amply satisfied, for I shall feel that I have tried to do my duty to our great Foundress and her Foundation, as my Benedictine brothers did in days gone by.

And, for the rest, I know not how I can end better than by adopting as my own the prayer of Brother Thomas in the twelfth century to his Lady the Queen, when in the thirty-second chapter of the first Book of the “*Liber Eliensis*” he wrote:—

“Oratio auctoris ad dominam suam beatissimam Etheldredam.

“Inculata autem scriptoris oratio veniam mereatur, et si non meruit sperare mercedem. Et si elegantia verborum non sonuit, desideria tamen votiva complevimus. Quisquis autem tibi dicatam opus perlegerit, vel legenti sobrium gloriosa virgo adibebit auditum. Misere eorum sorti compatere, quos tibi devotos, beata mater, intenderis, orationibus tuis juva, et certamen bonum futura immortalitas prosequatur pauperis tui cultoris, cujus tuæ laudi sudavit ingenium: dedicentur Christo, te intercedente, labores. Exulis illius te lingua resonabit, quamdiu in hoc

Preface

corpore peregrina versabitur : tuque eum saltem in ultimo tuere examine, ut cœlestis gloriæ participatione perfruatur. Quinimmo tua universis in afflictione positis menia præ-tende, et fideles tui per tua sancta suffragia æternæ vitæ gaudia mereantur, per eum qui te sibi sponsam assignavit, Jesum Christum, Virginis Filium, et Virginum Sponsum, Redemptorem mundi, et Dominum, qui cum Patre et Spiritu Sancto vivit et regnat Deus per omnia sæcula sæculorum. Amen."

CHARLES W. STUBBS.

DEANERY, ELY,
Easter, 1897.

CHRONOLOGICAL

FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE

"Christianity entered not into this Island like

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
VI.	563	<i>The Celtic Mission of S. Columba at Iona.</i>	...
	597	<i>S. Augustine's Roman Mission to Kent: S. Augustine said to have built a church in the Isle of Ely, at Cratendune.</i>	Anglia Sacra, i. 594; Lib. Eliens. i. 15.
VII.	624	...	...
	631	<i>Felix, first Bishop in East Anglia, founded a monastery at Soham, near Ely.</i>	L. E. i. 1; Bede, ii. 15.
	636	<i>S. Aidan at Lindisfarne: "Holy Island the true cradle of English Christianity."</i>	...
	637	<i>Anna, King of East Anglia, father of S. Etheldreda, and a family of saints; slain by Penda, the heathen King of Mercia.</i>	L. E. i. 1; Bede, iv, 19.
	654	...	...
	655	<i>Ætheldrytha (S. Etheldreda, S. Aldrede, S. Audrey), daughter of King Anna, born at Exning, 630, married, 652 (i.) Tondbert, Ealdorman of East Anglia, and (ii.) Egfrid, son of Oswy of Northumbria.</i>	...
	662	<i>Mission work by the Northern Church, S. Guthbert, Wilfrid of York, Benedict Biscop, Hilda, Synod of Whitby.</i>	...
	664	<i>Birth of Beda.</i>	...
	673	<i>S. Etheldreda founds her Monastery at Ely, giving to it all the royal rights which she possessed in 2 Hundreds in the Isle of Ely (about 25 Parishes), and in 5½ Hundreds in Suffolk (102 Parishes). Council of Hertford 673, at which all the Bishops of England attend, Theodore presiding. Bishop Wilfrid of York banished from Northern Kingdom, exercises Episcopal functions at Ely, the Monastery being exempt from the jurisdiction of Bishops of East Anglia.</i>	L. E. i. 15.
	679	<i>S. Etheldreda died, aged 49.</i>	...

ANNALS OF ELY.

MONASTERY TO ITS DISSOLUTION.

lightning, but like light."—THOMAS FULLER.

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
...
Rædwald, K. of East Anglia.	...	...	...	...	...
Eorpwald. Sigebert.	... <i>Felix, Bp. at Dunwich, 631-647. S. Fursy in Suffolk, 633.</i>	...	...	...	...
...	"
Anna.	<i>Thomas, Bp. Dunwich, 647-652.</i>	...	...	...	...
Æthelhere. Æthelwald. [Oswy of Northumbrian Supremacy.]	... <i>Boniface, 652.</i>	...	...	...	...
"
* Ealdulf [nephew of S. Hilda].	Bisi, Bp. of East Anglia, 669~	...	...	...	...
"	S. Etheldreda, 1 Abbess.	Huna "presbyter Alma Etheldredæ."	...	...	...
"	"
"	"
"	S. Sexburga, 2 Abbess.	...	SAXON PERIOD. The Pilgrims' Cross of S. Ovin in south aisle of Nave.	circ. 679	5

Chronological

Century.	A. D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
VII.	693	<i>Letter of Pope Sergius to Ealdwulf, King of East Anglia, of doubtful genuineness.</i>	... ..
	695	First translation of S. Etheldreda.	L. E. i. 28.
	699	... ..	"
		"
	716	... ..	"
VIII.	735	<i>Death of Beda.</i>	... ..
	747	<i>King Ealfwald writes to S. Boniface. The Canons of Cloveshoo.</i>	... ..
	749	... ..	... ..
	758	Offa, King of Mercia, creates Archbishopric of Lichfield, Bishops of Mercia and E. Anglia as suffragans. Foundation of S. Albans.	... ..
		
IX.	802	Council of Cloveshoo, at which are present Tidfrith, Bishop of Dunwich and Alheard, Bishop of Elmham.	... ..
	866	Coming of the Danes to East Anglia.	... ..
	869	Peterboro, Crowland and Ely burnt and sacked by Danes.	... ..
	870	<i>Martyrdom of S. Edmund and Settlement of Danes in East Anglia.</i>	... ..
		
X.	940	... ..	... ..
	959	... ..	... ..
	964	Monastic revival under S. Dunstan.	... ..
	970	The secular clergy, who had returned to Ely, dismissed by Æthelwold, Bishop of Winchester, and the Ely Monastery re-organised as a Convent of Benedictine monks.	L. E. ii. 5.
		King Eadgar, by charter, restored to the church the ancient rights which had been given by S. Etheldreda, and which had been lost for 100 years, since the destruction of the monastery by the Danes: bestowed upon the monks lands in Melbourn (109), Erningsford and Northwold (132), with the Manor of Hatfield (125) in Hertfordshire, and certain rights of fishing. King Edred had previously given the Villa of Stapleford (107) with lands at Berdfield and Dernford.	I. E. ("Inquisitio Eliensis").
		Church re-dedicated by S. Dunstan to S. Peter and B.V.M.	
		S. Etheldreda's Shrine with body of saint above ground near high altar.	L. E. ii. 52.

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.		Date.	Position on Plan.
Ealfwald, (nephew of S. Hilda.)	[Bedwin, Bp. of Elmham.]	...	...	...	...	...
"	"
"	S. Eormenilda, 3 Abbess.	...	...	...	...	...
"	S. Werburga, 4 Abbess.	...	...	...	...	...
"	[Bp. Hærdred of Dunwich.	...	...	...	...	...
"	Bp. Northberd of Elmham.]	...	...	...	...	...
"
"
Supremacy of Offa of Mercia.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Supremacy of Eg- berht of Wessex.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
Ælfred.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eadmund.	[S. Dunstan at Glastonbury.	...	...	...	...	...
Eadgar.	Archbishop Canterbury.]	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	I. Brithnoth Abbot.	...	...	...	...	...
...
...

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
X.		Bishop Æthelwold of Winchester gave the Manor of Sudburne (165), and in conjunction with Abbot Brithnoth, obtained by purchase for the Church the Manor of Lindune, with its appurtenances in Hylle (118), Wicham (120), and Wilberton (117). Lands in Sutton (120), Downham (119), Haddingham (118), Stuntney (117), Bluntisham (167), Toftes (110), Swaffham (101), Brandon (142), Livermere (142), Woodbridge (179), Quy, Horningsea (103), with the Manor of Hauxton (106), cum Newton (110), and the Manor of Stoke by Ipswich (158).	L. E. ii. 8 and 32.
		Athelstane son of Mana, gave land in 'the wold' in Wichford (119).	L. E. ii. 13.
		Wolstan, of Dalham, who first brought the claims of the Church of S. Etheldreda before King Edgar gave lands in Stuntny (187), with its fisheries.	L. E. ii. 18.
		Ogga of Mildenhall who gave one hide at Cambridge.	
975		Ethelred, King, who bestowed on the Church the Manor of Littlebury (126).	L. E. ii. 58.
		Etheliva, who gave Thacstede.	L. E. ii. 59.
978		Godwin, Lord of Hoo, who gave the Villa of Hoo (175) in Dereham.	L. E. ii. 69.
		Elmer, the brother of Godwin, who gave land at Hicham (156, 178) in Suffolk.	L. E. ii. 70.
981		Leofwin, the son of Adulf, who gave Kingston (110), The Rodings (127), Undeleia (154), with lands in Lakenheath (142, 154), Whittlesea (115), Cottenham (114), and Glemsford (155, 175), with the Abbotshai in London, fisheries in Upstane and rents in Hethfield (Hatfield).	L. E. ii. 60.
		Elfwara, lands in Brigham (132), Hengeham, Wetinge (184), Rattenden (184), Mundford (184), Teodford (184) with fishing.	L. E. ii. 62.
		Athelstane, Bishop of Elmham, gave to the monks the Manor of Dankstone (154), with various ornaments for the Church.	L. E. ii. 65.
		Ælfreda gave lands at Holand in Essex, afterwards exchanged with St Paul's, London, for lands at Milton (113).	L. E. ii. 31.
		Coming of the Wikings.	
		Battle of Maldon.	
		<i>For Death of Brithnoth and Battle of Maldon, cf. Thorpe's "Analecta Saxonica"; Freeman's "Norman Conquest," i. 297, 303.</i>	
991		Brithnoth, "Duke of Northumbeland," Ealdorman of Essex, bestowed on the Church the Villas of Spaldwick (166) and Trumpington (107); lands in	L. E. ii. 62.

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
...
...
...
Eadward the Martyr.
Æthelred the Redeless.
...
...	2 Abbot Elsin.	...	... ..	...	...
...
...
...
...	Relics of Duke Brithnoth and Saxon Bishops now built into niches in Bishop West's Chapel.	...	...

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
X.		Rattenden (126) and Hesberic; Seham (156), Accolt (153), Fulbourne (102), Impiton (153), Papisford (103) Crocheston (138), Finberg (156), Triplow (174), Hardwick (110), and Somersham (167), with gifts of money.	
		Ædelfleda, widow of Duke Brithnoth, confirmed Rattenden (126), and gave lands in Soham (156), Dittun and Chesse (181).	
		Ethelfleda, her sister, gave parts of Dittun, Hedham (124), and Cheleshelle (125).	
		Leofleda, wife of Oswi, and daughter of Duke Brithnoth, gave estates in Balsham (105) and Stetchworth (104).	L. E. ii. 88.
	994	Lustwinus, and his wife Leofwara, daughter of Duke Brithnoth, gave Wetheringeset (166), Dittun, Knopwell; Burch Parva and Weston, Kidington and Pentelow, Wimbisch, Girdele, Hamningfeld and Estcheutune.	„ ii. 89.
		Elsin, the Abbot, obtained from King Ethelred, by purchase, Cadenho (168), and Stretle (103, 168), and the two Lintunse.	„ ii. 76, 77.
		Uva, the eldest of three brothers, gave Wivelingham (112), and Cotenham (114).	„ ii. 66.
		Oswin, another of the brothers, gave the Villa of Stetchworth (104), when his son, Alfwin, entered the monastery, with lands in Cherteling, March (116), Dullingham and Swaffham (101).	„ ii. 67.
		Æderic, the third brother, entered his son Ædelmere in the monastery, and gave lands in Ceaddberi (195) now Chedburg.	„ ii. 68.
		Elfelm gave the Manor of Wrattung (105); the original grant of this Manor to Elfelm is still preserved.	„ ii. 73.
XI.	1005	...	...
	1016	King Canute confirmed the rights of the Church, gave Villa of Dittun in exchange for Chesse (181), and with Queen Emma gave many gifts to the Church.	„ ii. 78, 82.
	1019	...	...
	1022	Ælwinus, afterwards Bishop of Elmham, at his admission to the monastery offered lands in Walpole, Wisbeche (118) being a fourth part of the hundred of the Isle, Debenham (145), Brithwelle (160), and Woodbridge (179, 180).	„ ii. 75.
		Godiva, who gave Estre (127), Fanbrige (128), and Thirlinging (193), with land at Berchings (157).	„ ii. 81, 83.

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.		Date.	Position on Plan.
...
All England under Swein.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...
...
"	[Archbishop Lanfranc.]	...	...	...	...	...
Cnut (Canute).	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	3 Abbot Leofwin	...	...	...	...	...
"	4 do. Leofric.	...	...	...	...	...
"

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XI.	1029	Leofsin, afterwards Abbot, at his admission as a boy to the monastery, gave a donation of lands in Glemsford (155), Hertest (154, 195), Berchinges (158), Feltwell (138), Shelford (107) and Snailwell (101).	ii. 74.
	1033	...	...
	1037	...	...
	1040	...	...
	1042	Edward the Confessor confirmed by Charter the possessions of the Church, and bestowed on it the Villa of Lakenheath (104, 154).	ii. 92.
	1045	Wilfric, the 6th Abbot, purchased and gave to the Church the Manor of Bercham (159).	ii. 94.
	1066	...	...
	1073	...	...
	1075	...	...
	1082	...	...
	1086	<i>Doomsday Book.</i>	...
	1087	...	...
	1093	<i>S. Bernard, 1091-1153.</i>	...
	1096	<i>First Crusade. Peter the Hermit, 1094-1100.</i>	...
XII.	1100	Henry I.; by whom the Charter for the foundation of the Bishopric was given; and who, by several Charters still preserved in the Cathedral, bestowed sundry Royal gifts on the Church.	Ep. Reg. M. f. 74. D. & C. Cart. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Cnut (Canute).	5 Abbot Leofsin.	...	...	...	...
"	[S. Anselm.]	...	...	...	...
Harold.	...	...	...	...	...
Harthacnut.	...	...	...	...	...
Eadward Confessor.	...	...	...	...	...
"	6 Abbot Wilfric.	...	...	...	...
William I.	7 Ab. Thurstan.	...	...	...	...
"	8 Ab. Theodwyn.	...	...	...	...
"	Administration of Godfrey.	...	NORMAN PERIOD. [a. Earliest variety.]	...	...
"	9 Ab. Simeon.	<p>Abbot Simeon's work in ground story of Central Transepts; notice exterior of windows in west side of South Central Transept with nail-head moulding; and portion of ancient doorway below in cloister; all other early Norman windows in church have billet moulding. Under the pavement of the present choir are the foundations of an apse, which Simeon intended to build on the model of his brother Abbot Walkelin's model at Winchester. These foundations were laid bare by Professor Willis in 1850. The old Priors' Hall, ground story of Canon's Residence, old Priory adjoining Deanery.</p>		1083	...
					15
					10, 11, 12
				...	63
William II.	...	...	...	...	...
...	[Anselm at Canterbury.]	...	...	...	...
...
Henry I.	10. Abbot Richard.	<p>[b. More advanced, but still early Norman.] The upper stages of central transepts; notice on outside the original Norman triforium roof and clerestory, with rude parapet of triforium wall, on the east side of north central transept, the most complete specimen of the old church which is left.</p>		1100	15
					18

Chronological

Century.	A. D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XII.	1106	Second Translation of S. Audrey.	...
	1107	Bishop Hervey; by whose exertions the Bishopric was established ; and who, under the king's order, divided the Church's possessions between the See and the Convent.	D. & C. Cart. No. 51, 52; Ep. Reg. M. f. 143.
	1109	<i>Death of Anselm.</i>	...
	1118	King Stephen confirmed the rites and privileges of the Church.	D. & C. Cart. Nos. 7, 8.
		Henry II. gave special protection to the monks for the preservation of their fishing rights at Dunwich.	<i>Ibid.</i> No. 9; Ep. Reg. M. f. 83, <i>et seq.</i>
		<i>Thomas a Becket.</i>	
		Richard I. gave deeds of privilege to the Church of Ely, and to Bishop Longchamp, his Chancellor.	D. & C. Cart. No. 13, 14; Ep. Reg. M. f. 89.
	1133	Nigel, Bishop, gave to the monastery the Manor and Church of Hadstock, and made a grant from the Church of Wentworth and another from property in Ely to the Sacrist; he also gave the tithes of his turbaries in Ely and rents in Horningsea and Ditton " <i>Domui infirmariæ</i> "; also the trunk of a tree from a grove at Somersham every week " <i>ad opus Fratrum infirmorum</i> ," also the Villa of Winston " <i>in perpetuam Elemosinam</i> ," and the Villa of Marham " <i>ad caritatem et hospitalitatem Domus augmentandam</i> "; also a part of Hartest for providing a light for the Altar, and spices; also the tithes of his demesne at Cattemere in Littlebury " <i>ad emendationem organorum</i> ," and all the tithes of Whittlesea and part of those of Pampisford " <i>ad libros Ecclesiæ faciendos et emendandos</i> ."	D. & C. Cart. No. 53, 54; Ep. Reg. M. f. 146, <i>et seq.</i>
		<i>Martyrdom of S. Thomas a Becket.</i>	
	1135	...	...
	1144	...	...
	1154	...	...
	1163	...	...

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
...	...	...	Ornamental arcaded galleries, north and south ends of transepts.	...	14
			Remains of monk's kitchen, north - east corner of deanery.	...	60
			[c. Still more advanced Norman.]		
			Nave with its splendid processional doorways to east and west alleys of cloister, monks' and priors' doors.	...	4, 6
Henry I.	1. Bishop Hervey.	1. Prior Vincent.	[d. Further advance showing great richness of detail.]		
"	"	2. Prior Henry.	Apsidal Chapel in south-western transept.	...	3
"	"	"	Lower stages of western transept.	...	3
...	...	"	Screen in south central transept possibly removed from lower stages of the fallen north-western transept.	...	13
...	...	"	[e. Latest and most refined Norman.]		
"	2. Bishop Nigellus.	"	Infirmiry buildings.	...	71
"	"	3. Pr. William.	...	...	...
Stephen.	"	"	...	...	...
"	"	4. Pr. Tonbert.	...	...	...
Henry II.	"	5. Pr. Alexander.	...	...	...
"	"	6. Pr. Solomon.	...	...	...

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XII.	1164	<i>Constitution of Clarendon.</i>	...
	1170	...	...
	1174	...	...
	1177	...	...
	1189	<i>Third Crusade.</i>	...
		Longchamp, Bishop, who gave to the monastery lands in Somersham, Corefield, Flemsfield, Elm and Leverington, to the extent of 2140 acres, with the new tithes of Somersham and four neighbouring parishes, and one sheaf from every acre of all his demesnes (called Candle Corn).	D. & C. Cart. 57, 58, 62; Ep. Reg. M. f. 160, <i>et seq.</i>
	1194	Eustace, Bishop, who gave the Church of Stetchworth to the monastery "ad supplendum defectos suos," and the Church of Meldred "in usus Domus hospitalitatis"; a charge on his Manor at Hatfield for the Almonry; Property at Berningham, with money, for an annual pittance for the monks and annual gifts to the poor; land for a cellar for the Refectory; grants from the Rectories of Downham and Sutton for the Sacristy; and confirmed the Church of Impinton "in usus Cantarie," and "built from the foundation the New Galilee towards the west at his own cost."	D. & C. Cart. 59 to 65; Ep. Reg. M. f. 168, <i>et seq.</i>
	1197	...	...
XIII.	1200	John, when Earl of Moreton and after his accession, confirmed the privileges of the Church. <i>Pope's Interdict.</i> <i>Roger Bacon, 1214-1292.</i> <i>Magna Carta.</i>	D. & C. Cart. Nos. 16, 17, 18.
	1215	...	...
	1216	Henry III., who, out of regard for Bishop Hugh, granted special forest rights to the Church in the Royal Demesne of Somersham, and by five other charters gave peculiar advantages to the Church of Ely. <i>Coming of the Friars.</i>	<i>Ibid.</i> No. 19; Ep. Reg. M. f. 111; D. & C. Cart. Nos. 21-24.
	1219	John de Fontibus, Bishop, who appropriated the Rectory of Wichford to the monks "in proprios usus hospitalitatis," and the great tithes of his demesne at Hadham, to be divided at his anniversary between the monks and the poor.	D. & C. Cart. 66, 67; Ep. Reg. M. f. 168, <i>et seq.</i>
	1220		

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Henry II.	...	...	TRANSITIONAL NORMAN.		
"	2. Bishop Nigellus.	6. Prior Solomon.	Upper stages of western transept and western towers, with upper arches of crossing.	1170-1184	2
"	3. Bishop Geoffrey Ridel.	"			
"	"	7. Prior Richard.	Black marble slab in south aisle of choir, said to be monument of Bishop Nigellus.	1174	...
Richard I.	4. Wm. Longchamp.	"	Infirmary Chapel: with beautiful groined roof of chancel, at present the study in canon's residence.	...	37 72
"	...	8. Prior Robt. Longchamp.	The details of infirmary north door nearly identical with Bishop Ridel's west transept windows. The original Norman screen in nave, destroyed by Essex in 18th century, judging by his rude drawing of its central doorway with ornamental tympanum, possessed similar features to this north doorway of Riddell's Infirmary.		73
"	5. Bishop Eustace.	9. Prior John de Stratshate.	IV. EARLY ENGLISH.		
John.	"	10. Prior Hugh.	[a. Lancet windows.] Gallilee porch built by Bishop Eustace.	1200 1215	1
"	"	11. Prior Roger de Brigham.	...	...	...
Henry III.	"	...	...	...	...
"	"
"	6. Bishop John de Fontibus.	...	...	...	...

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XIII.	1225	Geoffry de Burgh, Bishop, who gave 120 acres of land in Bluntesham, with charges on land at Wysbech and Elm, to the monastery; and with the consent of Absalom, the Rector, gave the Church of St Andrew's, Cambridge, "in augmentationem Sacristariæ."	D. & C. Cart. 68, 69; Ep. Reg. M. f. 174, et seq.
	1229	Hugh de Northwold, Bishop, a munificent Benefactor, who while expending large sums on the erection of the Presbytery, made grants from his lands at Barking to provide annual pittance for the monks and annual gifts for the poor; he also gave to the monastery a charge of 30 marks on the Rectory of Melburne "ad Coquinam monachorum"; made a further appropriation of the Rectory of Sutton "causâ hospitalitatis sectandæ et augmentandæ"; founded a College of four chantry priests in the Cathedral out of his Manors of Bramford and Tatteridge, and united and reformed the Hospitals within the City.	Ep. Reg. M. f. 177, et seq.
	1241	...	...
	1252	Third Translation of S. Awdrey, in the presence of Henry II., the whole Church re-dedicated to S. Peter, S. Etheldreda, and B.V.M.	...
	1254	Wm. de Kilkenny, Bishop, appropriated to the monastery the Churches of Melbourne and Swafham; founded a Chantry of two Chaplains in the Cathedral, and left money to the Priory of Barnewell to found two Divinity exhibitions in Cambridge.	Wharton Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 636.
	1257	Hugh de Balsham, Bishop, bestowed on the Prior and Convent of Ely the Churches of Foxton and Wisbech, for which he purchased other advowsons for the See, the former "ad augmentationem Elemosinarie," the latter "ad recreationem Fratrum in Refectorio reficientium,"—founding also a College of Students at Cambridge, Peterhouse.	Wharton Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 637.
	1259	Dante, born 1265. Roger Bacon's "Opus Majus." Giotto born.	...
	1271	...	...
	1272	Edward I. confirmed the rights of the Church by special Charters.	Ibid. 26, 27; Ep. Reg. M. f. 119.
	1273	...	...
	1279	Statute of Mortmain.	...
	1283	Organisation of Convocation of Clergy.	...

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Henry III.	7. Bishop Geofrey de Burgh.	...	...	...	...
"	"	12. Prior Ralph.	...	...	...
"	8. Bp. Hugh de Northwold.	...	The six bays of Presbytery built by Bishop Northwold. <i>N.B.</i> Two bays of his early English Triforium in south side exterior still remain. The Abbot's chair, wolf with S. Edmund's head in his paws.	1235-1252	43
"	"	13. Pr. Walter.	...	...	...
"	"
"	9. Bp. William of Kilkenny.	...	Tombs of Bishop Northwold and Kilkenny. Remains of shrine or altar in south nave Triforium.	1254-1257	29 26
"	10. Bp. Hugo de Balsham.	...	[6. Geometrical tracery.] Eastern windows of S. central transept in present library.	...	56
"	"	"	Windows, east and west wall, gable of Deanery.	...	61
"	"	14. Pr. Robert de Levrington.	Remains of Refectory in Deanery Garden.	1270-5	59
"	"	"	Arched recess in cloister (doorway to choir vestry): possibly caroll, or book-case, or seat of Master of the Novices.	...	7
Edward I.	"	15. Pr. Henry de Banciis.			
"	"	"			
"	"	16. Pr. John de Hemingston.	...	...	...

Chronological

Century.	A. D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XIII.	1286	John de Kirkeby, Bishop, gave to the Convent for his anniversary a house in London, opposite the Friars Minors, called "the Belle," thereby providing pittances for the monks and alms for the poor. He also left to his successors a messuage in Holborn.	Ep. Reg. R. F. 214.
	1288	...	...
	1290	Wm. de Luda, Bishop, bequeathed to his successors house and lands with endowments in Holborn.	Ep. Reg. A. F. 156.
	1291	...	...
	1299	...	...
XIV.	1302	<i>Gimcbue.</i> John de Fressingfeld, Prior; "multa bona fecit Ecclesiæ." He purchased for the Priory the estate in Ely called "the Brays," and lands in Downham, Wycham and Sutton, with Lythgates and Barkeres, for his anniversary.	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 643.
	1306	<i>Petrarch.</i>	
	1307	Edward II. gave charters; and a mandate to secure the Liberties of S. Etheldreda in Norfolk and Suffolk.	Ep. Reg. 127 to 135; D. & C. Cart. 28, 29, 30.
	1310	John de Ketene, Bishop, left the furniture of his chapel, many valuable robes and vessels of silver-gilt to the Cathedral.	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 642.
	1314	Alan de Walsingham, Monk.	
	1316	John de Hotham, Bishop, who, after the fall of the central tower of the Church, rebuilt the Western portion of the Choir, which had also been destroyed. He gave also Pelham a Manor in London and Dageney a Manor in Northwold, to the monastery "ad officium Celerarie"; purchased various plots of ground in Holbourne, with houses and gardens, which by his will he divided between his successors and the Prior and Convent; and further gave special rents, called the Cellarer's Rents, to the monks, with gifts to the poor.	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 647. Some original Conveyances in the D. and C. muniments.
			Rot. Celler. <i>passim.</i>
	1321	John de Crauden, Prior, besides taking a leading part in the rebuilding of the Octagon and the Western bays of the Choir, and erecting the Chapel attached to the Priory, with large hall and study, purchased property in Cambridge for a hostel for the Ely Scholars. Alan Sacrist. <i>Dante died.</i>	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 649.

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Edward I.	11. Bishop John de Kirkeby.	...	...	...	...
"	"	17. Prior John de Shapreth.	...	...	...
"	12. " William de Luda.	...	...	...	...
"	"	18. Prior John Saleman.	...	...	...
"	13. " Ralph de Walpole.	19. Prior Robert de Oxford.	...	...	...
"	14. " Robert de Oxford.	20. Pr. William de Clare.	V. DECORATED. [d. Early.]		
"	"	21. Pr. John de Fressingfeld.	Canopy of Bishop de Luda's Tomb.	1300	44
Edward II.	...	...	...	...	...
"	15. " John de Ketene.	...	...	...	...
"
"	16. " John de Hotham.	...	...	...	...
"	"	22. Prior John de Crauden.	Lady Chapel, with entrance door in north aisle of Choir. Clerestory window in S. wall of S. central transept. Central Octagon.	1321	19
			Three bays of present choir.	...	16
				...	54

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XIV.	1327	Edward III., by his Charters, showed his interest in the Church of Ely—making a special gift of a large sum for the renewing of the stock on the Episcopal Estates, and providing annual gifts for 100 poor persons. <i>Giotti's Campanile, 1334. Chaucer.</i>	<i>Ibid.</i> Nos. 32, 33, 34.
	1337	John de Crauden elected Bishop, but not confirmed. Simon de Montacute, Bishop, who took special interest in the building of the Lady Chapel, under the superintendence of John of Wysbech, and himself bore the greater part of the expense.	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 649.
	1341	Alan de Walsingham, by whose zeal and talents the Octagon was constructed in place of the fallen tower; who built the Hall with rooms over for the use of the Infirmary, with a new set of offices for the Sacrist; and secured for the monastery the possession of the lands of Brame and the Church of Mepal.	Anglia Sacra, vol. i. 643, etc. Mepal Charters.
	1345	Alan elected Bishop, but not confirmed.	...
	1349	<i>The Black Death.</i>	...
	1362	...	...
	1364	...	...
	1366	John Bucton, Prior, under whom the great gate of the monastery, called Ely Porta was commenced. John Barnet, Bishop, who inserted new windows in the Triforium of the Choir.	...
	1368	<i>Wycliff's "de Dominio."</i>	...
	1374	...	...
	1377	...	...
	1380	<i>"Piers Plowman," Thomas a Kempis</i>	...
	1388	<i>Peasant Revolt. Donatello.</i>	...
	1397	...	...
	1399	...	...
XV.	1401	Wm. Powcher, Prior, by whom the supporting arches of the West tower were built, and the additional building forming an Aisle on the North side of the Infirmary. (<i>Aula Minutionum.</i>)	Lam. MSS. No. 499.
	1413	<i>Brunelleschi Dome at Florence.</i>	...
	1418	...	...

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Edward III.	...	\ ...	Prior Crauden's Chapel, south side of Deanery adjoining Priory.	1330	64
			The Prior's New Hall, above old hall: see fine timbered roof.	...	63
"	17. Bishop Simon de Montacute.	22. Prior John de Crauden.	The Guest Hall (present Deanery) restored: old roof timbers and fine stone corbels.	...	61
"	"	23. Pr. Alan de Walsingham.	The Fair Hall built at S.E. corner of Deanery: <i>N.B.</i> fine tracery of 2 windows.	...	62
"			The sub-prior's residence in Infirmary.	...	73
"	18. Bp. Thomas Lisle.	"	Inserted windows in the aisles of Presbytery.	1337	...
"	"	"	Monument of Bishop Hotham: and watching loft of S. Awdry's Shrine.		27
"	19. Bp. Simon Langham.	"	The wooden stalls of choir with elaborately carved canopies: the panels modern.	1340	...
"	"	24. Pr. William Hatfield.	Late decorated windows in outer Triforium of Presbytery.		
"	20. Bp. John Barnett.	25. John Bucton.	Inserted windows at East and West of Lady Chapel by Bishop Barnett.	1374	...
"	"	"	Bishop Barnett's monument.		42
"	21. Bp. Thomas de Arundell.	"	...	...	...
Richard II.	...	"	...	...	...
"	22. Bp. John de Fordham.	"	...	...	...
"	"	26. Pr. William Walpole.	...	...	...
Henry IV.	"	"	VI. PERPENDICULAR.	...	66
"	"	27. Pr. William Powcher.	The Ely Porta, sometimes called Walpole's Gate.	...	
Henry V.	"	"	Supporting arches of West Tower.	...	2
"	"	28. Pr. Edward de Walsingham.	Aula Minutionum, aisle on north side of Infirmary.	1418	71

Chronological

Century.	A. D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XV.	1422	...	...
	1425	...	...
	1426	...	...
	1430	...	...
	1438	...	...
	1444	"Imitation of Christ," 1441. Bourchier and Gray, Bishops, carried on new works on the west tower of the Cathedral.	...
	1450	Jack Cade's Insurrection.	...
	1454	Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519.	...
	1461	Wars of the Roses, 1455-1471.	...
	1462	Erasmus, 1467.	...
	1478	Michael Angelo, 1475-1564. John Morton, Bishop, executed a vast work of drainage which greatly increased the value of land in the Isle of Ely, rebuilt the palace at Hatfield, and bequeathed gifts to the Cathedral.	...
	1483	Titian, 1477-1576.	...
	1485	Raphael, 1483-1510.	...
	1486	Thomas More, 1480-1535. John Alcock, Bishop, rebuilt much of the Episcopal property, including the palace Ely and Downham, and built into the N.E. corner of the Choir of the Cathedral the Chapel now called by his name.	...
		Columbus, 1492.	...
		Holbein, 1497-1543.	...
XVI.	1500	...	...
	1501	...	...
	1506	Erasmus' "Praise of Folly."	...
	1509	...	...
	1510	...	...
	1515	...	...

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Henry VI.	22. Bp. John de Fordham.	28. Pr. Edward de Walsingham.	Cloisters: no remains of Norman cloister, except arcade on south wall of Church.	...	58
"	"	29. Prior Peter de Ely.	...	...	...
"	23. Bp. Philip Morgan.	"	...	...	...
"	...	30. Pr. William Wells.	...	...	...
"	24. Bp. Louis de Luxembourg.	"	...	...	...
"	25. Bp. Thomas Bouchier	"	...	...	...
"	"	"
"	26. Bp. William Grey.	"	...	...	...
Edward IV.	"	"	Outer wall of Triforium raised, and windows inserted in nave.	1470	...
"	"	31. Pr. Henry Peterboro.	...	...	...
Edward V.	27. Bp. John Morton.	32. Pr. Roger Westminster.	Bishop Gray's monument remains in N. Triforium nave.	1478	...
Richard III.	"	"	...	...	...
Henry VII.	"	"	Bishop Alcock's chapel.	1488	32
"	28. Bp. John Alcock.	"	Tomb of Cardinal de Luxemburg.		35
"	"	"	Tomb of Earl Tiptoft and two wives.		41
"	"	33. Pr. Robert Colville.	...	...	...
"	29. Bp. Richard Redman.	"	...	...	...
"	30. Bp. James Stanley.	"	Bishop Redman's Monument.	1506	25
Henry VIII.	"	"	...	...	...
"	"	34. Pr. William Wittlesea.	Cloisters.	1509	58
"	31. Bp. Nicholas West.	35. Pr. William Ffolliott.	...	...	...

Chronological

Century.	A.D.	Chronological Events and Benefactions.	Authorities.
XVI.	1516	<i>More's Utopia.</i>	.. ..
	1522	... ..	.. ..
	1525	<i>Tyndall's translation of Bible.</i>	... ..
	1529	<i>Fall of Wolsey.</i>	... ..
	1534	<i>Cranmer at Canterbury.</i>	... ..
	1539	Dissolution of the Ely Monastery, and reorganisa- tion as Dean and Chapter.	... ..

[Authorities: L. E.=Liber Eliensis: The first two books published by
I. E.=Inquisitio Eliensis: published for the Royal Literary
column of Benefactions refers to pages of this edition).
A. S.=Wharton's Anglia Sacra, 1691.
Ep. Reg.=Episcopal Registers in Muniment Room at the
D. and C. Cart.=Charters and Obedientary and other Rolls

Annals of Ely

Reign.	Abbot or Bishop.	Prior.	Architectural Features of Ely.	Date.	Position on Plan.
Henry VIII.	31. Bp. Nicholas West.	36. Pr. John Cottenham.	...	...	...
"	"	37. Prior Robert of Wells or Steward, First Dean.	...	...	...
"	"	"	[b. Verging on Renaissance.]		
"	32. Bp. Thomas Goodrich.	"	Bishop West's Chapel.	1534	36
"	"	"	VII. CLASSICAL. Doorway in north-west corner of north-central Transept inserted (by Sir Christopher Wren) when north-west corner of transept was rebuilt. Similar work at south door to cloister.	1699	74

Canon Stewart in 1848.

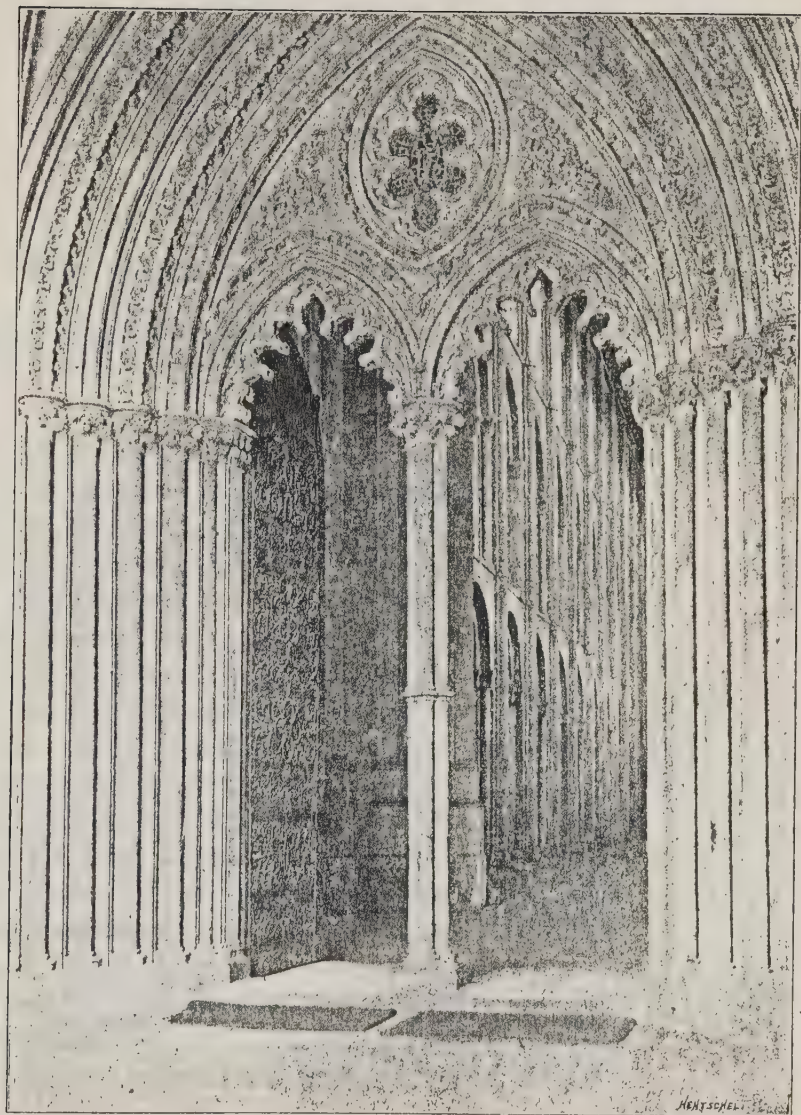
Society 1876, edited by N. E. S. A. Hamilton (the numerals in brackets in

Palace Ely.

of the Monastery in the Cathedral Muniment Room.]

INDEX TO PLAN OF CATHEDRAL AND OLD CONVENT BUILDINGS.

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|---|--|



WEST DOOR OF MINSTER

Lecture I

The Shrine of S. Andrey

“Etheldrede of Ely Gode mayd was and hende. . . .

Now God for the love of her bring us to heven blis.”—

MS. Bodl. 77, ff. 279.

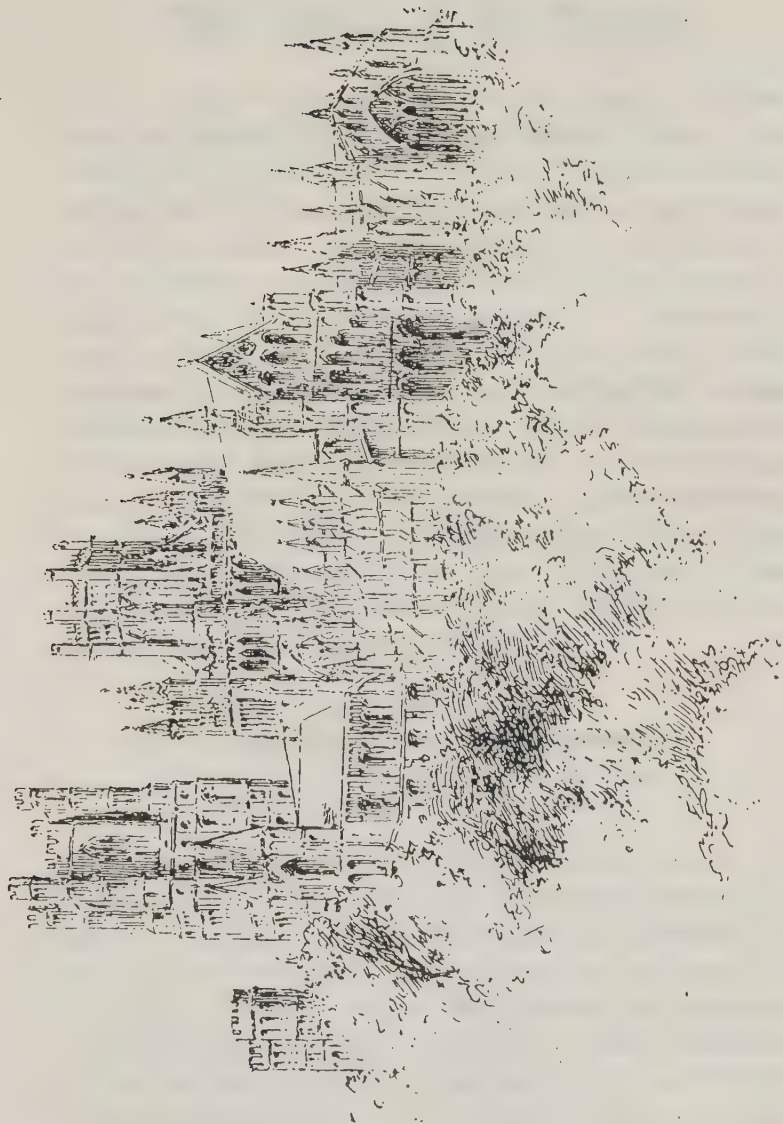
FAR back in my memory shines the picture—the golden picture—of a happy day in my undergraduate life at Cambridge, when for the first time I saw the Isle of Ely and that glorious Minster of the Fens, of which I have to speak to you to-night. It was at the close of one summer term, during which I had been attending the Lectures of Charles Kingsley, at that time Professor of History in the University. Fired by the spirit of romance and chivalry with which that most poetic teacher had retold for us the story of the old monkish Chronicler, Thomas of Ely, concerning Hereward the Wake and his long defence of the Island Monastery against the forces of William the Conqueror, I had walked over one Sunday with a friend from Cambridge. I shall never forget that day. The poetic glamour of the place and its history has remained with me for nearly thirty years.

You can imagine, therefore, I fancy,—knowing as you

The Shrine of S. Andrey

must how too often the more deliberate judgment and slower footed imagination of middle age is apt to translate poetry into prose,—that it was with some foreboding for my ideal vision of the past that I found myself in the early spring of two years ago once more approaching the magic isle. But Nature in a double sense was very kind to me. Tired with my long journey from the North, I fell asleep as the train was crossing the wide tract of flat monotonous Fen country, and only awoke as we slackened pace within a mile or two of Ely. But what a transformation scene kindly Nature had prepared for me with her magic wand. The whole country, save a short belt of dark peat land in the immediate foreground, was covered with a low lying sheet of white mist. I seemed, as I looked out of the carriage window, to be gazing on a vast inland sea. Here and there the surface of the magic water, rippling in the golden evening light, like waves upon a sunset sea, appeared to be dotted with tiny green islets, and now and then a fishing-boat, which in reality were but clumps of forest trees, or some single crown of pollarded willow, whose tops were breaking through the mist. Suddenly, as the train swept round the curve, the dark purple outline of the Island City, with its grouping of russet-tiled houses, rising step by step, crowned with the many towered mass of the great Minster, somewhat magnified perhaps in the golden haze, stood out against the sky,—

“The charmed sunset lingered low adown
In the red west.”



ELY MINSTER FROM S.E.

The Shrine of S. Audrey

At the highest point of all, the lofty lantern windows were still flashing with the high reflected lights of the setting sun. It was indeed a scene of mystic loveliness and beauty, such as, in the old days, before the drainage of the Fens, must often have struck the imagination of our fore-fathers as they approached the City in boat or barge across the wide-stretching meres. It was such a scene probably that Wilfrid of York saw when, twelve centuries ago, exiled from the northern kingdom he came southward to find refuge at Ely, and to consecrate his friend, Queen Etheldreda, first Abbess of the Monastery she had founded there. It was such a scene that must have been before the eyes of the great Danish King, when, four centuries later, he came to the Island City, as described in the old lines of the ballad which has floated down to us across the ages:—

“ Merrily sang the Monks of Ely
When Cnut, the King, he rowed thereby.
Row near the land, cnihtes, said the King,
And let us hear the good monks sing.”¹

or, as in the story which tells of his visit to the Monastery one Candlemas, when the whole country was flooded and frozen, and a Ceorl, named Brithmer, led the way for the King's sledge over the ice, testing its strength by his great weight, and receiving for his services the freedom of his lands. One needs, I think, to live and to live for some time, with observant eye, in one of these wide-stretching plains, where the arch of Heaven spreads,

The Shrine of S. Andrey

as over the open sea, more ample than elsewhere, to realise what Milton calls "The virtuous touch of the arch-chemic sun" in building up

"So many precious things,
Of colours glorious and effects so rare,"

such cloudscapes, such magic picturing in the lights of sunrise, and of sunset, as certainly can be seen nowhere else in England.

Circumstances, no doubt, rule first impressions of places as of men, and yet I think it is natural to speak first of the striking physical features of such a place as Ely, for certainly no one can read the old *Chronicles*² and find how the weird loneliness of that vast solitary marsh-land had fastened upon the imaginations of our fore-fathers, without feeling that it was this natural position which gave its first element of greatness to the Abbey and Minster, and made the name of Ely and the powerful men who governed there so potent a name in the mediæval history of England.

The Isle of Ely, as we know it now, is merely the name for a political district of North Cambridgeshire, whose boundaries are roughly indicated on the map, by the slightly elevated lands, of about twenty-eight square miles in extent, which, between Ely and Peterborough, are raised by a few feet above the surrounding plain, commonly known as "the Great Level" of the Fens. This vast plain, of some 2000 square miles, containing some of the richest land in all England, is yet as much the product of the art

The Shrine of S. Andrey

of the engineer as the Kingdom of Holland opposite which it lies, and is as much dependent as that country for its very existence upon the continuous watchfulness from day to day of the bankers and dyke workmen of the Drainage Commissioners.

So utterly transformed has the whole Fen country become in modern times that it is very difficult to restore

þæmet oze ppo wumdratæ cord
exþmæt cantalenā hif n̄b anglæ
cōposuit dūcæt: au' exordiu' sic cō-
tinet. Marie sungan ðe muneches
binnen ely. Ða chut ching reuðor
bæ. Roþeþ chitel noer the lant Jne
re pe þes muneches sæng. Qd' lara
ne sonat. Dulce cantauer̄t mona
chi in ely: dū camit' rex nauigaret
ppe ibi. Hūc milites nauigatæ ppi?

THE BALLAD OF KING CNUT.

in the imagination the original scenery of the days before the drainage, when the rivers which take the rainfall of the central counties of England, the Nene, the Welland, the Witham, the Glen and the Great Ouse, spread out into a vast delta or wilderness of shallow waters, whose

The Shrine of St. Andrew

sea boundaries,—instead of being marked on the map of England, as “the Wash” is now, by a line joining Boston and Kings Lynn,—would require an extended sea boundary on which Lincoln, and Stamford, and Peterborough, and Cambridge, and Brandon and Downham Market would become almost seaboard towns, and Ely an island fifteen miles or so off the coast at Cambridge.³

Some of you will probably remember how Charles Kingsley—in his splendid novel of “Hereward the Wake,” and again in the chapters of “The Hermits” which are devoted to the history of St Guthlac—has used his graphic pen to describe this East Anglian Fen-land.

“The fens in the seventh century,” he says, “were probably very like the forests at the mouth of the Mississippi or the swampy shores of the Carolinas. Their vast plain is now in summer one sea of golden corn; in winter, a black dreary fallow, cut into squares by stagnant dykes, and broken only by unsightly pumping mills and doleful lines of poplar trees. Of old it was a labyrinth of black wandering streams, broad lagoons, morasses submerged every springtide, vast beds of reed and sedge and fern, vast copses of willow, alder, and grey poplar, rooted in the floating peat, which was swallowing up slowly, all devouring, yet preserving the forests of fir and oak, ash and poplar, hazel and yew, which had once grown on that low rank soil, sinking slowly (so geologists assure us) beneath the sea from age to age. Trees torn down by flood and storm floated and lodged in rafts, damming the

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waters back upon the land. Streams bewildered in the flats, changed their channels, mingling silt and sand with the peat moss. Nature left to herself ran into wild riot and chaos more and more, till the whole Fen became one 'dismal swamp' in which at the time of the Norman Conquest 'The Last of the English,' like Dred in Mrs Stowe's tale, took refuge from their tyrants and lived like him a free and joyous life awhile."

And yet even in those early days, the far islands of this inland sea must have had a special beauty and charm of their own, attractive at any rate to those saintly souls, who in that rude time, sought to escape from the tyrannies and the slaveries and the barbarisms of the world, and longed for some quiet sanctuary where they could live a life of contemplation and prayer and "worship the King in His beauty in a land that is very far off." (Isaiah xxxiii. 17). Such a "place of farnesses"—to use Isaiah's poetic word—the hermits and saints of the early English Church found in the Islands of the Wash. Ramsey, Thorney, Spinney, Sawtrey, Ely, Crowland, were such Isles of Refuge upon which the cells of Hermits, St Guthlac, St Botolph, St Huna were the germs out of which the great Fenland Abbeys afterwards grew, when the passion for religious solitude gave place to the passion for religious community life.

Of these islands Ely is by far the largest and most important. Its name Elge, or Eel-ey—the "Isle of Eels"—is derived of course from the eels which at all times were to be found there in such abundance. An unfounded

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tradition states that for several centuries there was a standing contract between the Abbey of Ely and that of Peterborough, by which in consideration of a consignment of so many hundred eels a week for the monks' table at Peterborough, their brothers of Ely might dig as much stone as they needed for the Cathedral buildings from the Barnack quarries in Northamptonshire, and certainly to-day at Ely, I know, from sad experience, that a Chapter Dinner at the Deanery would be regarded as far from orthodox if a dish of stewed eels did not appear on the menu card. The Historian Bede had no doubt of this origin of the name—"Nomen accipit a copiâ anguillarum" run his words.⁴ But the ancient Chronicler of the Abbey, Thomas, a monk of the twelfth century, ventures upon a much more picturesque if somewhat mixed derivation of the name.⁵ The Latin "Elge," he says, is evidently derived from the Hebrew word "El" = God, and the Greek word "Ge" = land, the "Land of God"—a term which is certainly, he thinks, justified by the many Shrines and the great sanctity of the Abbéy. A more modern writer, Mr Baring Gould, in his fascinating story "Cheap Jack Zita," which I strongly advise anyone to read who cares to know anything of the darker side of modern Fen life, ventures upon a still more poetic origin of the word. He surmises that Ely was originally called the "Elf-Isle," the Island of Fairies, because of those "mythical spiritual beings who danced in the moonlight and sported on the water of the meres." I confess I could wish for myself that philology as well as

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poetry gave Mr Baring Gould any authority for such a derivation.

What was the first Christian settlement of the Isle of Ely it is impossible to say. It is true that the monkish Chronicler of the "*Liber Eliensis*," writing in the twelfth century, tells us that the first Ely Monastery, "according to the old writings," was erected through the influence of Ethelbert of Kent and consecrated in honour of the Virgin Mary by S. Augustine and was destroyed by Penda, the heathen King of Mercia. But the date is not very precisely stated—"in primitiva etenim ecclesia nascentis Fidei et Christianitatis"⁶—are the actual words, and one must always be somewhat doubtful of the historical exactitude of an unsupported writer who is recording events which occurred five hundred years before his own time.

The "*Liber Eliensis*" was written by a monk of Ely, named Thomas, who lived in the reign of Henry II., and is the original authority for the events in connection with the Conquest of the Isle by William the Conqueror, and, in conjunction with the Chronicle of Crowland, for all the adventurous story of the last stand of the English under Hereward, which is known to most of you I have no doubt by Kingsley's novel. This book is, of course, among our most precious treasures at Ely and is safely guarded in a treble-locked oaken chest in the Muniment Room of the Cathedral.⁷ It is natural, of course, that a Norman monk of a Benedictine Monastery, in the time of Henry II., should wish to trace back the History of his House, if

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possible, to Latin influences, and should thus endeavour to make much of its supposed original foundation by S. Augustine of Canterbury. But the earliest authority after all for the Ely settlement in the seventh century, and for the story of its great Foundress, the Virgin Queen and Saint,—Æthedrythe, Etheldreda, Eldreda, Aldreda, as the Norman Latin of the Domesday book wrote it, S. Aldred, S. Awdrey—is not the monk Thomas of Henry II.'s time, but the 'Father of English history' himself, the Venerable Bede, who was born the very year that S. Awdrey founded her Monastery in the Fens, and who, if he was only six years old when she died, had yet during the next twenty years many opportunities of hearing her story from the lips of those who had known her well. For Bede was ordained deacon by John of Beverley, the pupil of S. Awdrey's aunt by marriage, the great Abbess Hilda of Whitby, probably in the very Church of Hexham which had been built by Wilfrid, and endowed with the lands which had been S. Awdrey's dowry as Ecgfrid's Queen. As a boy also in the Monastery School at Jarrow, the future historian may quite well have seen not only the Abbess Hilda but the holy saint, Cuthbert himself, the friend for whom we are told S. Awdrey worked the stole and maniple, rich with gold and precious stones, which for many a century afterwards was preserved in the Saint's Shrine at Durham.⁸ Above all, we know, for he tells us so explicitly in his History, that Bede had talked of the early history of the Virgin Queen with the great friend of her youth, the Archbishop Wilfrid, the prelate who at York had married her to the future king of Nor-

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thumbria, who had been her adviser and Confessor during all the years that she was Ecgfrid's Queen and from whose hands finally, after she had forsaken her throne, she received her pastoral staff as Abbess of Ely. The two chapters in Bede's History⁹ form in fact the kernel of every subsequent biography of Queen Etheldreda. In the first of these chapters is probably contained all that is really trustworthy in her history. The second is almost entirely taken up with a rhapsodical eulogy of the virtues of the Queen, written in Latin verse, the great historian making excuse for this unusual lapse into poetry by asserting his desire "to imitate the method of Scripture, in the historical parts of which very many songs are inserted." I am afraid the lyric inspiration of Bede's poem hardly justifies the scriptural comparison. The more important lines are these. You may care to hear them. I quote them from Mr Gidley's translation.

"Our Ætheldrytha, virgin saint sublime
Hath blessed and made illustrious our time :
Sprung of a noble sire of royal race
And nobler than her lord of heavenly grace
A Queen's estate, a sceptre's royal power
Were hers below ; more is her heavenly dower.
Twice six years had she sat in regal pride
When she became her Lord's affianced bride,
And when her pure soul had become renowned
For lofty deeds a home in heaven it found.
Sixteen Novembers since was this pure saint
Entombed, whose flesh corruption dares not taint.
Christ, by thy power, her grave clothes still remain
Shining and white, without polluting stain."

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This eulogy of Bede, however, furnished a precedent for two other poetic lives of the Saint which have come down to us, one a life written in hexameter verse in the time of Henry I. by Gregory, a monk of Ely, apparently to commemorate the foundation of the Bishopric, and another in English verse, unfortunately imperfect, but running to the length of some 1200 lines, to be found among the Cotton MSS. in the British Museum.¹⁰

From these four authorities, at any rate, Bede's History, the Liber Eliensis, the monk Gregory's hexameters and the English verse of the Cotton MSS. we may piece together the main facts of S. Awdrey's life.

Born in the middle of the seventh century, about 630, at Exning in Suffolk, a village which is now almost a suburb of Newmarket, Etheldreda was a daughter of Anna, the Christian King of East Anglia. In a green shady meadow just outside the village, surrounded by giant elms, I was shown, a few months ago, the five springs and the clear purling brook, in which, so village tradition still tells, the future Queen and Saint was baptized by S. Felix, the first Bishop of Dunwich. When she grew up she was married to Tondbert, a prince of East Anglia, who bestowed upon her the Isle of Elge or Ely, as her dowry. The marriage seems to have been sorely against the lady's will, for apparently even thus early, possibly under the influence of the great Northern Abbess, Hilda of Whitby, who at this time appears to have been at Anna's Court, on a visit to her sister Hereswitha,—who was married to

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Etheldreda's paternal uncle, Ethelhere—the young Princess seems to have vowed herself to the religious life. Her husband appears to have respected her vow and suffered the marriage to be merely nominal. Two years later, in 654, her father Anna was killed in battle with Penda, the powerful King of Mercia. A year later still her husband Tondbert dies, and the widowed Princess retires to her Demesne at Ely, evidently intending, amid this general wreck of her family, to devote the remainder of her life solely to religion. Her mother had retired to the convent of Chelles, near Paris. Her three sisters, Sexburga, Ethelburga, Withburga, all at different periods, retired from the world, and became distinguished patronesses of the monastic life. Etheldreda's widowhood lasted five years. Then her father's ancient enemy, the Mercian King, Penda the Prompt, was conquered and slain at Wynwaed, near Leeds, by Oswy of Northumbria, and there were great rejoicings among Etheldreda's Northern kin.

“In the river Winwaed is avenged the slaughter of Anna
The slaughter of the Kings Sigebert and Ecgrice
The slaughter of the Kings Oswald and Eadwine.”¹²

So rang out the triumphant battle-song of the conquerors. The Supremacy of the great heathen kingdom of central England was thus broken, and with the ruin of Mercia, the two Christian kingdoms of Northumbria and East Anglia drew together. The union was cemented by the marriage of the scions of the two royal houses.¹³ Oswy's son Ecgfrid was married to Etheldreda, Anna's

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daughter. This union lasted for eleven or twelve years, and was of the same nature as that with her first husband, Tondbert. In 670 Ecgfrid came to the throne, and seems then to have determined that his wife should give up her vow. He seeks the help of the Archbishop Wilfrid, who had evidently great influence with both king and queen. But Wilfrid—so at least the monk Thomas does not hesitate to say—secretly endeavours to confirm the resolution of the Queen, and finally, after much opposition, persuades the King to consent to a divorce. The ill-assorted couple separated,—Ecgfrid to seek a second wife, Etheldreda to take the veil at the hands of Wilfrid, in the monastery of Coldingham. But Ecgfrid seems shortly to have repented of his permission, and set out for Coldingham with a band of followers to take his Queen from the monastery by force. By the advice of the abbess Ebba, who was the king's aunt, Etheldreda fled southwards, to find refuge in her old home at Ely. There she arrived after encountering many perils, and after many miracles, according to the later records, had been wrought in her favour. In the five centuries that elapse between her first biographer Bede and the monk Thomas, of the "Liber Eliensis," the Legend of the Saint has palpably lost much of its early simplicity. The growth of the Legend is plain to any one who looks at the sculptured "Acts of the Saint" as they are represented on the eight great corbels which support the marvellous dome of Alan de Walsingham's fourteenth century octagon.¹⁴ Three out of the eight incidents of her life thus carved in stone,

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represent miraculous events, two belonging to the flight from Coldingham to Ely, one a legendary tale of a prisoner's release by the merits of the saint.

The most striking, perhaps, of these sculptures is that in the corbel immediately above the modern pulpit of the Cathedral, which represents the fugitive Queen sleeping by the wayside, guarded by two of her waiting maidens, Sewenna and Seware, and shaded by her pilgrim's staff, which has taken root and burst forth miraculously into branch and leaf and flower. It is a prophetic parable of the life history of the Church of the nation, of its ever-changing fortune, of its ever-expanding mission, of its vicissitudes and dangers and trials, many and various, and yet of its essential character unchanged and unchanging, "the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nation," because of its living root firmly planted "on the word of our God which standeth for ever." As a prophetic dream of the future, this sculptured legend formed a very natural and moving text for the great preacher of the nineteenth century, when, on the twelve hundredth anniversary of S. Awdrey's Great Foundation, he was expatiating on the historic glories of our national Church as typified in Ely Cathedral, but Bishop Magee's poetic fancy must have been a very dimly realised vision indeed to the pilgrim Queen of Northumbria in the seventh century, as for a second time she sought refuge in her island home, in the Fens, from the distractions of the world.

In 673 the first religious house was founded at Ely by the Queen. Bede speaks of it as a nunnery, while the

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monk Thomas calls it a twin monastery of monks and nuns like Coldingham, with the working of which S. Awdrey would of course be perfectly acquainted. I think that this supposition is most probably correct. For the mixed community was the fashion of the time. It was the fashion of the great Irish house of S. Bridget at Kildare. It was the fashion of the Norman convents in France at Chelles, at Autun Brie and Fontevrault, in one of which (Chelles) Etheldreda's mother had taken refuge, in another of which, Fontevrault, her sister Ethelburga was at this time Abbess. It was natural, therefore, that Etheldreda's house at Ely should be on this same model—a side for men, and a side for women, both classes being under the rule of the Abbess, and the nuns taking precedence of the monks. There was something also in the chivalry both of their Northern Christianity and Teutonic race which would give this precedence to women, and in the case of Etheldreda, as in that of her great kinswoman Hilda of Whitby, there was also the fact that she was the daughter of a royal race and that she had been the Queen of the great Northern Supremacy, which would naturally give her leadership in any such community. And we must of course remember that these early monastic settlements had none of the strict discipline of the later Benedictine rule. Indeed there is evidence to show that in many cases the establishment of a monastery was often only a pretext under which a lord and his dependents exempted themselves from their national obligations of military service. This, of course, could not be said to be in any sense the origin of

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the Ely Convent, and yet even there perhaps there may have been many inmates drawn to the convent life of monasticism not so much by the old religious impulses of ascetic sacrifice as by the new aversion from warfare and the new passion for social life and longing for peaceful industry. There was at least one such man we know among the immediate followers of S.

Awdrey whose story was typical of the change which the monastic movement had brought about in man's conception of the dignity of labour. Among all the architectural glories of the Ely Cathedral of to-day, to my mind, there is no memorial of the past history of our country so moving as the two simple

stones, the rudely fashioned fragment of the Pilgrim's Cross of S. Ovin, with its pathetic prayer—



S. OVIN'S CROSS

“LUCEM TUAM OVINO
DA DEVS ET REQUIEM. AMEN”—

one of the oldest Christian monuments in England to-day,

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which now stands in the south aisle of the Cathedral by the Prior's Door.

This Ovin¹⁵ had been house-thegn to the Queen on her first habitation of the Island after Tondbert's death, and had accompanied her to the north on her marriage with Ecgfrid. There he had come under the influence of S. Chad the Apostle of the Midlands, and had become a monk in his monastery at Lavingham. The picture of the East Anglian noble divesting himself of the things of this world, as he stands by the convent gate, as told by Bede in his History is very picturesque. "Having left all that he had he came," says the historian, "clad only in a plain garment, and carrying an axe and mattock in his hand, thereby intimating that he did not go to the Monastery to live idle as some do, but to labour. Which very thing he also showed by his practice, for as he was less capable of meditating on the Holy Scriptures, so he the more earnestly applied himself to the labour of his hands, and whilst the brethren were engaged within in reading he was busy without at work." After the death of S. Chad it would seem very probable, from the evidence of this cross, that Ovin had returned to the service of his former Queen and Mistress, now Abbess of Ely. For Etheldreda having organised a community in which—according to the Chronicle—"for all there was the same rule, obedience, the love of God's worship, and a whole-hearted reverence for God's House" had been formally consecrated Abbess of Ely by her old friend and adviser, Wilfrid of York. The Bishop was at this time in banish-

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ment from the Northumbrian Kingdom, and seems to have made Ely his home for some years, exercising episcopal functions there, and acting as confessor and adviser to the Queen-Abbess. On his visit to Rome in 679 he made it his business to secure for Ely and his old friend a grant from the Pope, in confirmation of the decree of the Witan, which runs to this effect, that "forasmuch as the pious Queen had devoted to sacred uses the estate received as dower from her first husband, no infringement of the Liberties of the Isle either by King or Bishop should ever afterwards be allowed."¹⁶

This decree and its confirmation is interesting, for it is the first of a long series of Charters¹⁷ by which the Liberties of the Isle of Ely, "the Royal Franchise," as it was called, was gradually built up, and the Island district became in effect, though not in name, a County Palatine, subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the successive Abbots and Bishops of Ely, who exercised almost sovereign authority there, hardly second to that of the Prince-Bishops of Durham, down to the time of Henry VIII., their temporal jurisdiction in the Isle being only finally abolished by Act of Parliament in 1837.

It is interesting, perhaps, to note here that in the first of these Charters, that of King Edgar,—who in 970, under the influence of Bishop Æthelwold of Winchester, had reorganised the convent under the rule of S. Benedict,—two grants are specially named of the regal possessions of the Prior and Convent which they had inherited from Queen Etheldreda—(1) The Liberty of the Isle of Ely,

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being two hundreds in the marshes; and (2) The Liberty of Etheldreda, being five hundreds, afterwards spoken of as five and a half, in that part of Suffolk, of which Woodbridge is now the centre.

The Liberty of the Isle of Ely became, as I have said, the possession of the Bishop on the foundation of the Diocese in 1109. The Liberty of Etheldreda in Suffolk however, remained in the possession of the Prior and Convent, and still remains in the hands of the Dean and Chapter to-day. The fees and fines, the forfeitures and amercements, however, which originally supplied the main source of the income of the Monastery I need hardly say have long since ceased to be exacted by the Dean and Chapter. The last entry on the subject, which I can find in our Muniment Room, is in 1765 when it would appear there was a dying effort to enforce our claims for some "green wax which came out of the Pipe"—the Pipe you probably know is a Department of the Royal Exchequer. The entry is headed—"A deputation to receive fines" and the document runs thus—"we nominate, constitute and appoint William Ward of Staple Inn, London, Gentleman, Bailiff to attend at the apposal of the Sheriffs of Cambridge and Suffolk before the Foreign apposer to claim and demand, all franchises, proclamations, immunities and all manner of fines, amercements, recognisances, and other penalties, and forfeitures, commonly called green wax, which to us of right belongs." I know not how long William Ward stood looking for the green wax and the fines which it symbolises. From that time, I fear, to the

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present the Pipe, the conduit of the Royal Exchequer, so far as the Liberty of S. Etheldreda is concerned has run dry. After more than a thousand years the patrimony of the Anglo-Saxon Queen has disappeared. But if the patrimony has gone, one historic privilege of the Liberty still remains, and I trust may long remain. It is in virtue of the royal rights of Queen Etheldreda, in the seventh century, that the Dean and Chapter of Ely, as her direct representative in the nineteenth century, proceeded a few months ago to the election of a Coroner for the Liberty of Etheldreda in Suffolk.

But to return to our Saint. Her life as Abbess was a short one. In the sixth year of her rule at Ely, she was attacked by the plague, and after three days illness, died on the twenty-third of June, 679 A.D., "being taken to the Lord in the midst of her own people"—I quote the words of Bede—"and just as she had herself ordered, she was buried not elsewhere than among them in a wooden coffin."

Sixteen years later her sister Sexburga, the widowed Queen of Kent, who had succeeded her as abbess, removed her body, which was found to be marvellously protected from corruption, from the grave, and placed it in a white marble sarcophagus, "a divine gift," so said the Abbey brethren who found it as by a miracle near the walls of the City Granta (Cambridge) on the Mainland, and welcomed it as an indication of the will of God that the memory of the Virgin Queen should be held in perpetual honour. "Also, they say,"—I quote the words with which Bede in the

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fourth book of his History concludes the story of S. Awdrey—"that the coffin in which she was at first buried was a means of cure to some who were afflicted in their eyes, who when they had put their heads to the same coffin and prayed, presently were relieved of the discomfort of pain or dimness in their eyes. They washed, therefore, the body of the virgin, and having put on it new garments, took it into the church, and placed it in that sarcophagus which had been brought, where even to this day it is held in great veneration. Indeed, in a wonderful manner the sarcophagus was found fitted for the body of the virgin, just as if it had been specially prepared for it; and the place for the head, worked as a separate part, appeared most aptly shaped to the measure of the head."¹⁸

And so on the seventeenth of October, A.D. 695, the First Translation of S. Awdrey took place, and the marble shrine with its sacred relics found its resting place by the high altar of the Church of the Convent.

And thenceforward for two hundred years the historic record is silent save for the short chapter in the Liber Eliensis which tells how after the death of the three Abbesses, whose names alone have come down to us,—Sexburga and Ermenilda, the two sisters of S. Awdrey, and Werburga, her niece, and Ermenilda's daughter—"the vigour of the sacred foundation, under the rule of holy women, never growing faint but ever more and more increasing in fervour from the regular discipline and order of the monastic life, flourished through many roll-

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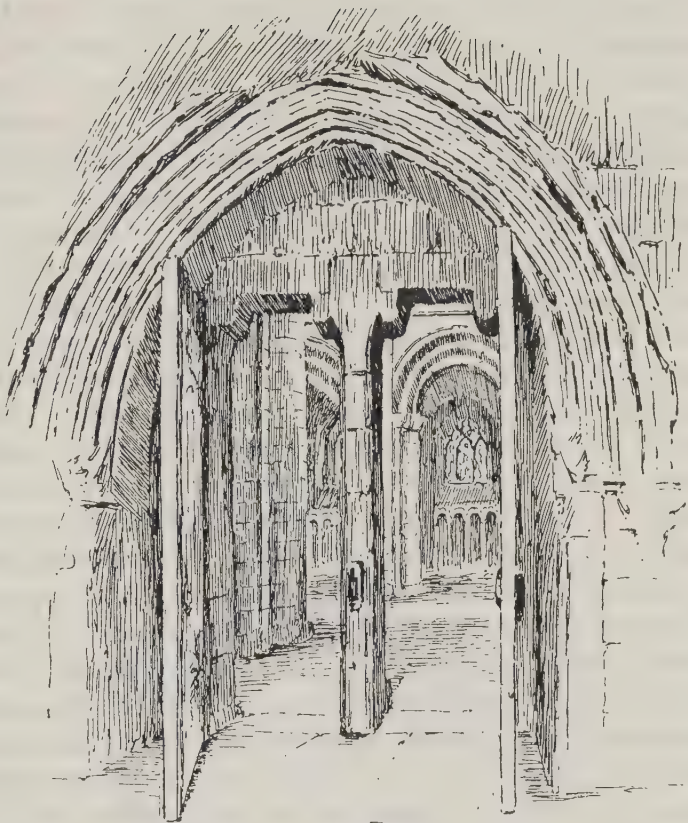
ing years, and while other churches and convents in the different kingdoms of England suffered from many wars, the church at Ely, by the grace of the Supreme Pity, dwelt in peace and security and the growth of Christian Law." ¹⁹

At last, however, in the year 870, the tranquil life of the sheltered island sanctuary was rudely broken. Across the wide spreading meres, and through the labyrinth of dikes and lodes and down the water streets cut through the reeds and sedge—the natural defence of the Island against any enemies other than these—came the pirate-fleet of the Danish Wikings. "Deliver us, O Lord, from the frenzy of the Northmen" had been a suffrage of a Litany of the time, but it was one to which the monks and nuns of Ely found no answer. The pirate horde swooped upon the Island, the panic stricken inhabitants after a brief struggle fled, the Convent and the Church, as afterwards at Peterborough and Crowland, were sacked and burnt to the ground, while the convent sisters and brothers, without respect to age or sex or condition were pitilessly slain among the ruins. And so, says the Chronicler, "the Monastery established by the Christlike (Christicola), Etheldreda was given over to the enemies of the Lord." "There was one, however"—the monkish chronicler relates—"of this host of savage enemies, a man more inhuman and cruel than the rest, a satellite of the devil, breathing slaughter and blood, a son of avarice, and a truculent seeker of other men's goods, who seeing the Shrine of the blessed virgin Etheldreda, thought it was a chest of treasure, and

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with all his strength he struck the marble sarcophagus in which rested the virgin body, and when he had multiplied blows upon the stone, he made an opening, which to this day may still be seen, but when he had done this there was no delay of divine vengeance, for immediately his eyes started miraculously from his head and he ended there and then his sacrilegious life. Which, when others saw, they did not presume any further to disturb the sacred dust of the virgin saint." ²⁰

And so for another hundred years the marble Shrine rested apparently unmolested in the ruined sanctuary. For a century later, after King Alfred's work was done, and the successors of his house, Ethelfled and Eadward and Athelstan had consolidated the central English Kingdoms, the Dane-law was established, and for a time at least there was peace in East Anglia, even in Guthrum's Danish settlement, and Eadgar's law was moulding a new England into some promise of its after-shape, and the King himself, Eadgar the Peaceful, was building up again the English church and fashioning the English realm into accordance with a religious ideal, and Abbot Æthelwold of Abingdon, S. Dunstan's friend, came to reorganise the old convent at Ely as a new Benedictine House. "He found," so says the Chronicler, "the body of the blessed Virgin Queen Etheldreda in the Church beside the High Altar, in the very place to which S. Sexburga had translated her and there, not hidden beneath the earth but raised above it, he left the body, for no one dared either to break open or examine the tomb, remembering the miser-



CAROL IN CLOISTER, NOW USED AS DOORWAY TO CHOIR BOYS' VESTRY

The Shrine of S. Andrew

able fate of him who was killed there for so doing, as related in the miracles.”²¹ The new monastic building and the restored Church were consecrated by S. Dunstan, on the Feast of the Purification, A.D. 970, and Brithnoth installed as the first Abbot. The King had already granted by charter all the rights originally given to Queen Etheldreda, and in addition he now gave to the monks several demesnes in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. “It pleased me,” runs Eadgar’s Saxon Charter,²² “that he (*i.e.*, Brithnoth the Abbot), so filled it with God’s servants to God’s praise, that I added to the former gift, every year, for these monks, ten thousand eel-fishes, that arose to me in former days, and all the soc over all the lands that are now given to the Monastery, or that may yet accrue to them through Christ’s providence or by purchase or by gift. They shall have the soc for ever on all, and the fourth penny on the public government into Cambridge by my grant.” Other benefactions rapidly followed,—a long list of the various estates is given in the Second Book of the *Liber Eliensis*,—and the Convent at Ely soon grew again in wealth and power until the Abbots were thought worthy to alternate with those of Glastonbury and Canterbury in holding the high office of Chancellor to the King. Among these benefactors there are some names that Ely is not likely to forget, as, for example, that of the great Ealdorman of Essex, the Duke Brithnoth, the friend of the monks of Ely, who was slain in a raid of the Norwegian Wikings, and whose deeds are celebrated in one of the earliest of English ballads, “The Battle of Malden,”²³ and whose noble

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death-words may well be treasured by every Englishman who gazes on the niche in Bishop West's Chapel, where now rest his bones—"God, I thank Thee, for all the joy I have had in life"; or that of King Cnut, the Dane, of whose first famous visit to Ely I have already spoken, and who, on another occasion, not only confirmed the rights of its Church by royal charter, which he placed upon the altar where the remains of S. Etheldreda were entombed, but with Queen Emma, gave many gifts beside lands to the convent—"A purple cloth, worked with gold and set with jewels, for S. Awdrey's Shrine," is specially named as the Queen's gift by the monk Thomas, "so that none other could be found in the kingdom of the English of such richness or beauty of workmanship";²⁴ and, above all, perhaps, the name of Eadward the Confessor himself, who, as an infant, had been brought to Ely by King Æthelred and his mother, and placed there upon the holy altar of the church, and who, when he came to the throne, never forgot the lessons he had learnt as a boy in the Ely Convent—the monk Thomas speaks of his delight in joining with the other boys in singing psalms and hymns in the cloister—but once more confirmed by charter the possessions of the Abbey and added to them others of his own gift.²⁵

It is interesting, I think, to notice that all the great landed possessions of the monastery, which were not finally dispersed until Henry VIII.'s dissolution, and some of which, as the Manor of West Wrating and certain lands in Winston and Debenham have only this year been sur-



DUKE BRITHNOTH'S RELICS IN BISHOP WEST'S CHAPEL

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

rendered to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by the Dean and Chapter, were all derived by special gift to the Convent between the time of King Eadgar's Charter, in A.D. 970, and the death of Eadward the Confessor, in 1066.

The story of the fortunes of S. Awdrey's Convent, and especially of the Shrine of the Saint, after the Norman Conquest, I have only time left to tell in briefest outline. The history of the Isle of Ely, and the Camp of Refuge there, which, under the leadership of Hereward the Wake and the Abbot Thurstan, became the last stronghold of the English against the Norman William, and how all hope of English freedom died in the surrender of Ely, I must leave you to read for yourselves in Professor Freeman's "History of the Norman Conquest," or, as perhaps you may prefer to do, in Charles Kingsley's stirring romance. For although that book is largely founded on a twelfth century story, "De Gestis Herewardi Saxonis," which contains much impossible rubbish, yet in his narrative of the facts of King William's Conquest of the Isle, Kingsley follows fairly closely to the monk Thomas' account in the "Liber Eliensis," a record which certainly need not be set aside in that respect as purely fictitious.²⁶

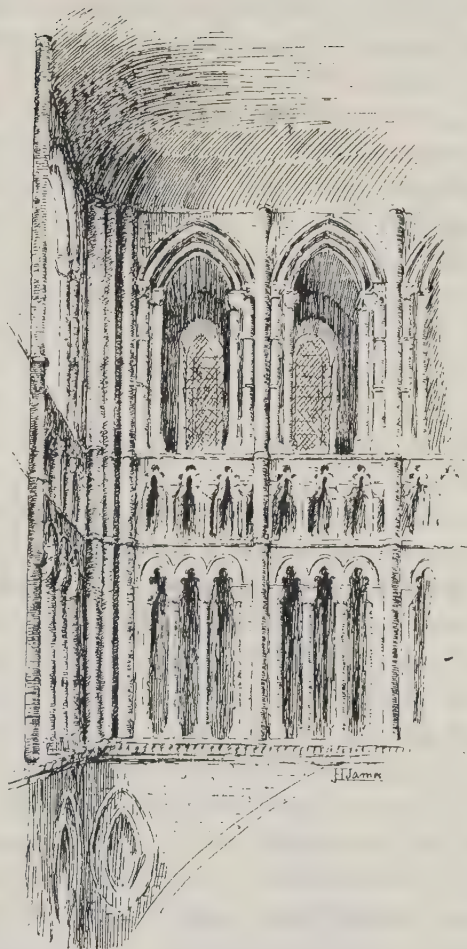
We reach solid historic fact again about the year 1080 when the foundations of the New Church—which during the next four centuries gradually grew into the Cathedral as we know it to-day—were laid by Abbot Simeon. He was an old man when he came to Ely, but like his brother, the Abbot Walkelin of Winchester, he began at once to

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

build the new Church and to reconstruct the whole Monastery,—“*novο scilicet ecclesiam Eliensem suscitant fundamento, reliquasque officinas toto annisu coedificans.*”²⁷ That the present Norman church occupies to some extent the site of the ancient Saxon one is evident from a passage in the “*Liber Eliensis*,”²⁸ which tells how four years before the Second Translation of S. Awdrey it was necessary to remove some of the bodies of the Saints from the place they had hitherto occupied, because the walls of the new Choir encroached on the site hitherto occupied by their Shrines. How much of the new church was actually completed by the aged Abbot we do not know. There seems little doubt, however, that he laid out the foundations of the North and South Transepts, the piers of the great central tower, and the Choir apse. The plain cylindrical columns of the eastern transept arches, with their perfectly plain square edged mouldings, and the three Norman windows with their nail-head decoration in the west wall of the south transept overlooking the cloister, are certainly his work. He died on S. Edmund’s Day, A.D. 1093, at the age of 101—

“*Vivebas Simeon, Simeon venerabilis alter
Etsi non ulnis bajulus ipse Dei,*”²⁹

—and was succeeded after an interval of some years by the Abbot Richard, who immediately proceeded with the building. It was so far complete on the 17th of October 1106, —a date still marked in the Calender of our English Prayer Book,—that the Second Translation of S. Awdrey was effected with great pomp and ceremony,—Herbert of Losinga,



INTERIOR OF WEST TOWER ABOVE THE GREAT ARCHES



The Shrine of S. Audrey

the Bishop and Founder of Norwich Cathedral, "*vir eloquentissimus*," preaching on the Life, Death and Miracles of the Saint, "*populum exhortante ad summæ jucunditatis et lætitiæ indicium*:"³⁰—and the old marble Shrine, now considered more than ever sacred, for it had been the centre of Pilgrimage to the faithful through half a millennium and the fame of Ely's Saint, the virgin Queen and Abbess, had spread far and wide through Christendom, was solemnly moved to the Choir of the great Norman Abbey and placed behind the high altar, with the Shrine of her sister Sexburga, eastwards at her feet, and that of S. Eormenilda on her right and S. Werburga on her left.

A third time the Shrine was moved, a hundred and fifty years later, in A.D. 1257, when Hugo de Northwold's splendid Presbytery was added to Abbot Simeon's Choir. By that time the Norman Church was practically quite complete. During the whole of the twelfth century, in fact, the great Norman arches of the nave had been slowly progressing westward. The Western Tower, with its great cross aisles—the Galilee Transept, common only to Durham and Ely,—belongs to the last half of the century. Much of the work of it is due to the fifteen years of Geoffrey Ridel's Episcopate (1174-1189) and all of it shows signs of the change, on the inside, from the rude but effective Norman workmanship of its lower arcades, to the Lancet arches and banded clustered columns of the upper transitional structure, while on the outside the whole grand West Front, from its massive base

The Shrine of S. Andrey

upwards, is profusely enriched with bold diaper patterns inevitably suggesting memories of the Byzantine Art which was first made familiar to England in the Age of the Crusades.

In A.D. 1229 Hugh de Northwold, the Abbot of Bury S. Edmund was consecrated eighth Bishop of Ely. During the twenty years of his life there, he became one of its most munificent benefactors, making large grants of land to the monastery, founding a college of priests, and reforming the Hospitals of the city. In the year 1234 he commenced the erection of the new Presbytery, an extension eastward as I have said, of the Norman choir. The six bays of this work—it is a hundred feet long from the great Norman Piers of Abbot Simeon's Apse to its noble Eastern Facade—is magnificent in all its details, one of the loveliest and most graceful buildings indeed of that most glorious architectural period. "Nowhere," says Professor Freeman,³¹ "can we better study the boldly clustered marble pier with its detached shafts, the richly floriated capitals with their round abaci, the yet richer corbels which bear up the marble vaulting shafts, the bold and deftly cut mouldings of every arch, great and small. *Lovelier detail was surely never wrought by the hand of man.*" It was seventeen years in building. In the British Museum there is preserved an ancient Roll,³² which gives the sums annually spent on this work by the Sacrist of the Monastery, acting as the bishop's agent, a memorandum which, though it does not give the careful details of expenditure in each portion of the work, which we shall afterwards see in the



WEST FRONT OF ELY MINSTER

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

Sacrist Rolls of the next century, in relation to the building of the great Octagon, does add much of great interest to the general statement in the III, Book of the "Liber Eliensis," which sums up the total cost of the structure at £5040, 18s. 8d., an amount equal to some £120,000 of our money.

Into this noble Presbytery; on the 15th of October 1252, in the presence of King Henry II. and his son, then a boy of thirteen, and many of the leading nobles and prelates of the kingdom, the Shrine of the Foundress, and of the three other Abbesses, and the reputed shrine of S. Alban, were removed a few feet eastward from their position in the Norman choir, and the whole Church, in ground plan completed as we have it to-day, was re-dedicated to S. Etheldreda, S. Mary, and S. Peter.

Once again, in the next century,—after the fall of the



THE WOLF WITH S. EDMUND'S HEAD, THE ARM
OF THE ABBOT'S CHAIR

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

great Central Tower, a catastrophe which, through the supreme constructive genius of one man, became a blessing in disguise, and led to the creation of that marvellous dome which gives to the interior of Ely its unique beauty and grace beyond words, and to the exterior that peculiar coronal outline—I venture myself always to speak of it architecturally as “S. Awdrey’s Crown”—a feature which has no fellow in any of the churches of England, or indeed of Christendom,—the Marble Tomb of the Foundress, still standing, where Northwold had placed it, in the glorious Presbytery which he had built in her honour, was further embellished by the superstructure of a splendid stone canopy and watching loft, beneath which was the ancient white marble tomb, and above the silver Reliquary, which in Norman times had been the gift of the Abbot Theodwyn, elaborately embossed with many figures, with a golden majesty blazing in its centre, with countless jewels of crystal and pearl, and onyx and beryl, and amethyst and chalcedony.³³

And so, for two centuries longer, it remained, the object of a reverence, doubtless exaggerated beyond reasonable bounds, and the unwitting cause possibly of much social evil in connection with the Pilgrims’ Fair, until at the time of the Reformation, by edict of the then Bishop of the See, the Puritan Thomas Goodrich, in A.D. 1541, “all the Relics, Images, Table monuments of miracles, shrines” of the Minster were totally demolished and dispersed. And now, not a trace of all this artistic glory, or of the sacred relics

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

of the saints, so marvellously cherished through more than a thousand years, remains.

But a few yards farther back from the place of the ancient Shrine, there now stands the High Altar of the Cathedral, and Sir Gilbert Scott's splendid Reredos,—unsurpassed probably by any modern work of the kind, a glory of sculptured panels and delicate tracery in alabaster, through which in the sunlight the jewelled colours of the East Window flash like gems, its spiral columns of white marble studded with bosses of gold and cornelian and crystal, supporting lofty canopies, beneath which, on either side of the central statuary of the Transfiguration, are the four great Prophets of Israel and the four great Doctors of the Church, and higher still, carrying the eye upwards, a fourth set of canopies, enriched with costly mosaic, with the Figures of the four Evangelists, and the four Figures by the Cross, and the four Virtues and the four Graces, again once more leading upwards to the central Figure of all, in its lofty enriched pinnacle, the Christ enthroned in Majesty,—forms a marvel of intricate beauty and lovely grace of outline, and costly jewels and brilliant colouring, hardly less sumptuous in effect than the ancient Shrine of S. Awdrey itself.

And yet, there in the centre of the ancient Presbytery, marked only by the sculptured keystone above in Northwold's vaulted roof, is the vacant space where once stood S. Awdrey's marvellous Shrine, and the lesson which that vacancy teaches us may well perhaps take the place of the lesson of the ancient Shrine itself. And that lesson I

The Shrine of S. Andrey

cannot better enforce than by reading you in conclusion the words, with such transposition as may be necessary, in which the late Dean Stanley spoke of the desecrated Shrine of S. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury.

“There are very few probably at the present time in whom, as they look round on the desolate pavement, the first feeling that arises is not one of disappointment and regret, that a monument of past times so costly and curious should have been thus entirely obliterated. There is probably no one who, if the Shrine were now standing, would dream of removing it. The very suggestion would call out a general outcry from all educated men throughout the Kingdom. Why is it that this feeling, so familiar and so natural to us, should three centuries ago only have been so completely over-ruled? The answer to that question is doubly instructive. First, it reveals to us one great difference between our age and the time, not only of the Reformation, but of many previous ages. In our time there have sprung up, to a degree hitherto unprecedented, a love of what is old, of what is beautiful, of what is venerable—a desire to cherish the memorials of the past, and to keep before our eyes the vestiges of times which are brought so vividly before us in no other way. It is, as it were, God’s compensation to the world for its advancing years. Earlier ages care but little for these relics of antiquity: one is swept away after another to make room for what is yet to come: precious works of art, precious recollections are trampled under foot: the very abundance in which they exist seems to



WEST TOWER AND GALILEE TRANSEPT AND S. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL FROM THE
1 DEANERY GARDEN

The Shrine of S. Awdrey

beget an indifference towards them. But in proportion as they become fewer and fewer the affection for them becomes stronger and stronger, and the further we recede from the past, the more eager now seems our craving to attach ourselves to it by every link that remains. Such a feeling it is which most of us would entertain towards this ancient shrine [of S. Awdrey]—such a feeling as, in the mass of men, hardly existed at the time of its destruction. In this respect at least we are richer than were our fathers; other gifts they had which we have not: this gift of insight into the past, of loving it for its own sake, of retaining around us as much as we can of its grace and beauty—we have as they had not.”²⁴

Our final thought, then, as we stand on the vacant site of S. Awdrey's Shrine, as we look westward to the great Octagon and its lofty lantern, the Crown of S. Awdrey, a landmark visible for many a long mile across the wide stretching Fens, and then as we turn eastward to the great Altar, the Altar of Transfiguration, and remember how “the Angel of the Presence” is promised to the Church of the Faithful “all the days even unto the end of the ages,” our final thought, I say, may surely well be this—Let us bless God's Holy Name for all those saints of the past who have departed this life in His faith and fear, those heroic spirits of the early days of our country's history, the Prophets and Kings of England, her bygone Saints and Worthies; and as “we praise famous men and our fathers who begat us” let us not forget,—if once a year only, on the 17th of October,—at the Calendar of our

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English Book of Common Prayer appoints—to commemorate not least among the chief Makers of England, in the childhood of the nation, that “nursing mother of our Israel,” Etheldreda, Virgin, Queen, Abbess of Ely, to whom we, in this University, as Oxford to S. Fridswide, trace back our spiritual ancestry.

NOTES TO LECTURE I

I. "Liber Eliensis," ii. 85, which tells how "on a certain day King Canute came to Ely in a boat, accompanied by his wife the Queen Emma and the chief nobles of his kingdom, hoping to keep there the solemn Festival of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, and how, when the boat came to the *Portus Pusillus* of the Monastery, the King raised his eyes aloft to the great Church which close by stood up on the rocky eminence, and was aware of a sound of great sweetness, and listening intently heard the melody increase, and perceived that it was the monks singing in the Convent their psalms and chanting 'the hours,' and calling his people about him, he exhorted them also to sing with gladness, he himself with his own mouth expressing the joy of his heart in a little song of English words, of which this verse is the beginning :—

"ƷeƷie rungen ðe ƷuneceƷer binnan Ely
ða Cnut ching Ʒeu ðeƷ by.
RoƷeð cniteƷer noeƷ the land
And heƷe Ʒe ƷeƷ ƷuneceƷer ræng"—

and in Latin it is this :—

"Dulce cantaverunt monachi in Ely
Dum Canutus rex navigaret prope ibi,
Nunc milites navigate proprius ad terram,
Et simul audiamus monachorum harmoniam."

and there are other verses which follow, which up even to our own time are sung, being still treasured among the old ballads."

I am indebted to Dr Skeat, Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Cambridge, for the following interesting notes on these lines :—

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"The lines were clearly written by a Norman scribe, whose pronunciation of English was imperfect, and the spelling is as quaint as that of the Domesday Book. I have lately found that this is a far more common phenomenon than has been suspected, and a good deal will in future turn upon this, in dealing with twelfth century spellings. The mistakes are these:—

- (1) 'Muneches' should be 'munekes'. The k never passed into modern English ch (as in chair) in this word: though it did so in the feminine 'minchen' (female monk, nun).
- (2) 'ching' is equally strange, and shows that k is really meant.
- (3) 'reu' is passable, but 'rew' is better. It is the true old East Anglian and original past tense: so also I mew (I mowed), I sew (I sowed), both still in common use in Cambridgeshire.
- (4) 'cnites' is an error for 'cnihtes.' This is pure Norman. The Normans could not sound the ht (= German cht, as in knecht).
- (5) 'noer' is ill-spelt: the vowel meant is long e. The word is 'neer,' or 'nēr'; usually written 'ner' at this time.
- (6) the æ in 'sæng' is needless, and the rhyme (only a vowel rhyme) shows that 'sang' is meant.

"The rhyme 'Ely'—'therby' is a pure one. The rhyme 'land'—'sang' is a half one. This was common about 1200, but never found in lines of this length before 1100.

"They occur much earlier in very short lines of an alliterative type. Hence we can say positively that the lines as they stand are not older than 1100, indeed 1200 would be nearer the mark. But it is quite likely that they represent *an earlier tradition*, and in that view I can accept them.

"There are some points of grammar that are quite correct for the period 1100-1300.

- (1) *Merie* may be adj. plu. or adv., more likely the adv. Mod. E. 'merrily.'

The Shrine of S. Amdrey

sungen, pt. t. plural.

Munekes; *es*, plural.

binnen; —*en*, adverbial and prepositional suffix.

Tha = when: true old adverb.

rew = pt. t. sing. correct strong pt. tense.

ther-by = by that place. But this is a fine touch: this particular compound is not found in Cnut's time in this sense.

roweth: *eth*, pl. of the imperative. (Lat. ate, etc, ite.)

cnihtes, plural.

nēr is a most interesting word, the modern 'near,' but with a difference. In early English it is invariably *comparative*, being, in fact, put for 'nigher.' It means 'proprius,' not 'prope'; as in the Latin version.

'here we': let us hear; the suffix *e* marks the pres. plural subjunctive, used as an imperative.

thēs (these); the *e* long.

(1) *Literal transcript.*

Merie sungen the muneches binnen Ely,
Tha Cnut ching rew ther-by,
Roweth, cnites, noer the land,
And here we thes muneches sæng.

(2) *Corrected transcript in the true spelling of the period.*

Merie sungen the munekes binnen Ely,
Tha Cnut king rew ther-by;
Roweth, cnihtes, ner the land,
And here we thes munekes sang.

(3) *Correct spelling of Cnut's own time.*

Myrige sungon thā munecas binnen Ēlīge,
Thā Cnut cyning rēow be strande;
Rōwath, cnihtas, nȳr thām lande
And hȳre wē thāra muneca sang.

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- (4) Pronunciation of (2) in modern English spelling.
Méria | soóng-un the | mo'oněķěz | bínnen Ailēē ||
Thar K(e)nōōt | king—rio'o | ther-bēē ||
Roaweth | k(e)nichtez | ['ich' as in German licht]
náir | the lánd [a as in German 'land.']
Und haira way | thayz | moonekez | sang | ."

In the same chapter is also given the story of Brihtmer and the King's sledge—"Brihtmerus Budde, pro densitate sic cognominatus."

2. Matthew Paris, "*Historia Major*," ed. Watt's, p. 929. The passage is thus quaintly rendered in Dugdale, *Embanking and Draining*, p. 358 :—"In the year 1256, William Bishop of Ely, and Hugh Abbott of Ramsey, came to an agreement upon a controversy between them touching the bounds of their Fens; whereof in these our times a wonder happened; for whereas as antiently, time out of mind, they were neither accessible for man or beast, affording only deep mud, with sedge and reeds; and possesst by birds (yea, much more by devils, as appeareth in the life of S. Guthlac, who, finding it a place of horror and great solitude, began to inhabit there), is now changed into delightful meadows and arable ground; and what thereof doth not produce corn or hay, doth abundantly bring forth sedge, turf, and other fuel, very useful to the borderers."

Cf. also "*Liber Eliensis*," lib. ii. c. 105, in which the description of the Isle given by the soldier to William the Conqueror resembles rather that brought by the spies to Joshua than any picture which the name of the Fen country at the present day would be likely to suggest.

"Si optatis audire quæ novi et vidi, cuncta vobis retexam. Intrinsecus insula copiose ditatur, diverso gramine repletur, et cæteris Angliæ locis uberiore gleba præstantior. Agrorum quoque et pascuorum amœnitate gratissima, ferarum venatione

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insignis, pecoribus atque jumentis non mediocriter fertilis, silvis, vineis non æque laudabilis, aquis magnis et paludibus latis velut muro forti obsita. In qua domesticorum animalium habundantia est et ferarum multitudo, cervorum, dammularum, caprarum, et leporum in nemoribus et secus easdem palades. In super luterium, mustelarum, erminarum, et putesiarum, satis copia est, quæ nunc gravi hieme muscipulis, laqueis, vel quolibet capiuntur in genio. De genere vero piscium, volatilium, atque natancium quæ illuc pullulant quid dicam? Ad gurgites in girum aquarum illarum innumerabiles anguillæ irretiuntur, grandes lupi aquatici, et luceoli, percidæ, roceæ, burbuces et murenas, quas nos serpentes aquaticas vocamus. Aliquando vero isicii simul et regalis piscis, rumbus, a pluribus capi memoratur. De avibus namque quæ ibidem et juxta mansitant, sicut de cœteris, nisi fastidio sit, exprimemus. Anseres innumeræ, fisedulæ, felicæ, mergæ, corvæ aquaticæ, ardeæ et anetes, quarum copia maxima est brumali tempore vel cum aves pennas mutant, per centum et tres centas captas vidi plus minusve : nonnunquam in laqueis et retibus ac glutine capi solent."

"Of all the marshland Isles, I Ely am the Queene,

For winter each where sad, in me looks fresh and greene"

is the inscription given in Drayton's "*Polyolbion*" (21st song), in which will also be found (25th song) a very fairly complete list of the Fen birds in the early part of seventeenth century.

3. See the very excellent Map given in "Fenland, past and present," by S. H. Miller and Sidney Skertchley [pub. Longmans, 1878] a book full of information on the natural features of the Fen country, its geology, its antiquarian relics, its Flora and Fauna. Compare also for the whole geography of the Fen District, Professor C. C. Babington's "Ancient Cambridgeshire."

4. Bede, "Hist. Eccles.," iv. 19.

5. "Liber Eliensis," i. 15, and also in the *Acta Sanctorum*.
"Y, sive Ey, Anglis Insula est; a forma scilicet ovi,

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undique præcisa, quæ Belgis composite Eylant, quasi terra ovalis: iisdem etiam anguilla diciter Ael, Anglis Eel. Dicitur etiam et scribitur Elige, et contractim Elge, quasi Elgey, vel Elig-ey, id est Anguilliosa insula." "Polydorus Virgilius a Græco "Ελος," quod paludem denotat, deducit; alii ab 'Helig' Britannico, quod salices significat, quibus præcipue abundat, cum aliarum arborum sit impatiens; aspiratio tamen, qua nomen 'Ely' caret, tertiam excusationem ab 'anguillis' vero similiorem facit." Acta S. Annotata G.H. A vivid description of the whole country is given by Felix of Crowland, in his life of S. Guthlac. The whole passage will be found quoted in Wright's "Biographia Britannica Litteraria," p. 249, vol. i., and with it an Old English version taken from the Cotton MS., Vespas. D. xxi.

6. "Liber Eliensis," i. Prologue, "In primitiva etenim ecclesia nascentis fidei et Christianitatis, in honore semper virginis Mariæ monasterium ibi fuerat fabricatum, per beatum Augustinum Anglorum apostolum; cujus operis rex Edelbrihtus primus fundator extitit; in quo ministros Dei officium complentes instituit, quos Pendæ regis exercitus, patriam devastans, inde postea fugavit, locumque in solitudinem commutavit. Talibus itaque fundatoribus Elge monasterium primitus fundatum est, ut in antiquis legimus scriptis."

7. The "Liber Eliensis" is far the most interesting of all the historical MSS. preserved in the Chapter Muniment Room at Ely. It professes to give the history of the monastery from its first foundation under S. Etheldreda down to the times of Nigel, the second Bishop of the See. It is the work of Thomas, a monk of Ely, in the middle of the twelfth century (iii. 57), who in ii. 107 and iii. 40 and 41 confesses himself indebted to the works of another monk of Ely, one Richard, who at the bidding of Hervey, the first Bishop of Ely (1108-1131), had compiled an account of Bishop Æthelwold's benefactions to Ely. This compilation Thomas inserted, with some additions and omissions, in

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his second book, of which it forms the first forty-nine chapters in the Ely copy. He is also much indebted to Bede. A considerable portion of his work is printed in the *Anglia Sacra* i. 591, *et seqq.*: *Acta SS.* 23 June, iv. 489, and in Mabillon's *Acta SS. Ord: S. Ben.* ii. 707 *et seqq.* The best edition, however, is that edited by Canon Stewart for the "*Anglia Christiana Society*" in 1848, though unfortunately it carries the "*Liber Eliensis*" only to the end of the second book. A brief summary of their contents is given by Sir Thomas D. Hardy in his *Descriptive Catalogue* (vol. i. p. 278), but the third book has not yet been printed. This is much to be regretted, because it deals largely with events which must have happened during the lifetime of the writer, and of which he must have been personally conversant. In the twelfth Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, p. 393, published in 1891, the "*Liber Eliensis*" is thus described:—

"The Ely MS. is a folio containing 189 leaves of vellum 10½ inches high by 7½ inches wide, written in double columns in a hand of the thirteenth century, or early in the fourteenth. It is in very good preservation and easily legible. On comparing my notes with another copy of the work in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, which is a far less handsome volume, I found the two copies agreeing closely, but the impression left upon me was that the Cambridge MS. was copied from the Ely volume. If this were so the copy must have been made when the latter was in a more complete form than now appears, as it is defective in not containing the *Descriptio terrarum Ecclesiæ S. Ætheldredæ*, or the *Six Lives of Saxon Saints*, which are to be found in the former MS. In the Ely codex it is significant that in every place where the words *Papa* or *S. Thomas (Becket)* occur they have been scrupulously erased, in obedience to the order of Bishop Goodrich, which was issued in 1535 at the bidding of Henry VIII. In the Cambridge MS. there are no

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such erasures. The late Mr Petrie considered the Ely copy of the "Liber Eliensis" a MS. of the highest authority. The compilation (for it is a compilation) was put together in the most curiously confused way; but in the third book the miraculous element is far less prominent than in the early portion. Of the 137 chapters which it contains, only thirty-one are concerned with the fables of S. Etheldreda's miracles, the remainder deals largely with the charters bestowed upon the Monastery and with the misconduct of Bishop Nigel in attempting to get more power and larger possessions into his own hands at the expense of the Convent."

A second MS. copy of the "Liber Eliensis" has lately been presented to the Cathedral Library by Professor Stanton. This MS. appears evidently to be the one which was made by order of Bollandus when the lives of S. Etheldreda, S. Ethelwold and others were being prepared for the "Acta Sanctorum."

The grounds for so regarding it are thus stated by Dr Stanton :

"(1) The note at the beginning of the MS. corresponds in minute particulars with the account given in the preface to the Life of S. Etheldreda in the *Acta Sanctorum* of the MS. of the Lib. Eliensis which was used for that work. The most material passages from that preface are these. I have italicised the chief points in which its statements agree with those of the note already referred to.

"'Extabant illa (viz., the acts of S. Etheldreda written by Thomas) et extant etiamnum in Cottoniana Londini Bibliotheca, MSS. codicibus locupleti. Inde *sumptum egraphum possidet Benedictinorum Anglorum Duaci Collegium unde secundum exemplum Bollando nostro transcribendum curavit R. D. Leander à S. Joanne*; et utrumque scriptum Antverpiam misit conferendum ad invicem. Fecit id diligenter Bollandus: sed cum ipsum MS. *Duacenum* *hand satis feliciter exaratum esset, non potuit absque subsidio Cottoniani originalis supplere vel corrigere defectus, fortassis plures, liberariorum socordiâ admissos.* Nihilo plus potuit præstare Johannes Mabilio,

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eodem Duaceno ecgrapho usus ad Vitam edendam, sicut fecit inter Acta Sanctorum Benedictinorum seculo 2: plus aliquid an potuerit H. Wharton, aliud ex eadem Cottoniana ecgraphum nactus, quod Angliæ suæ sacræ tomo primo inseruit, prout eam nuper accepi post hæc omnia prælo parata, inter imprimendum conferendo cum nostris apparebit.'

"The note at the beginning of the MS. looks as if it may have been copied in later than the date of the MS. But even so it must either have been made by the Bollandists themselves, or be an accurate copy of what they had written. If a note had been composed about the MS. after it had passed out of their possession, it certainly would have been cast in another form.

"(2) The MS. is mutilated at the beginning (the Prologue and the greater part of Chapter I., according to the divisions in Stewart's edition of the 'Lib. Eliensis,' are wanting). The title of the MS., however, has been saved and pasted in. It corresponds exactly with the title referred to in Preface to S. Etheldreda's life in the Acta SS., where in the sequel to the passage already quoted, the editor goes on to prove that 'verus titulus codicis, sic scriptus, Prioratus de Ely comitatu Cantabrigiæ ex Historiâ istius Prioratus scriptâ per quandam Thomam Monachum.'

"(3) In the next paragraph of the Preface in Acta SS. the editor says that we have the 2nd book of the Hist. Eliens: 'ex eodem codice Duaceno,' and a little farther on, 'Idem dixerim de Chronica Abbatum et Episcoporum Elyensium.' This agrees with the contents of the MS., which contains indeed more than the 2nd book of our old Ely copy, but makes no distinction between the 2nd and 3rd books. The Hist. Eliens. is followed in the MS. by a description of the Tabula Eliensis, and the Chronicle is then given. All this portion of the MS., which is indeed separately bound up, is by another hand. And it may be observed that the notice in the Acta SS., as to the name of the scribe, seems to refer only to Book I.

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“(4) The text, so far as I have examined it, agrees in regard to variations from the Ely copy with the Acta SS. It would be interesting to compare the *corrections* with the differences between the Acta SS. and Mabillon.

“(5) The dates of different saints and references to pages of the MS. where they are noticed are jotted down on first page and margin, betokening just such a use as the Bollandists would have made.”

[Bollandus died A.D. 1665. The volume of Acta SS. containing Life of S. Etheldreda appeared 1707. The establishment of the Bollandists at Antwerp was broken up, and their great collection of MS. was scattered by the army of the French Republic in 1794.]

As the III. Book of the “Liber Eliensis” has not yet been printed, it may be convenient perhaps to historical students if I print here an index of the titles of its several chapters.

LIBER ELIENSIS.

CONTENTS OF THIRD BOOK.

1. Quo modo post mortem Ricardi abbatis Herveius Bangornensis ep'us de sua sede ejectus ab Henrico rege dirigitur in Ely ut inde procuracionem haberet. Qui fratrum animos illic blanditiis et circumlocutionibus sibi allexerit ut ecclesiam ipsam de abbazia in episcopatum mutaret et illum susciperent episcopum. Ad quod confirmandum monachis ignorantibus Rome destinatur a rege.

2. Quod Herveius a papa obtinuit mandatum ad regem Henricum de promovendo abbaziam de Ely in episcopatum et de constituendo eum illic episcopum.

3. Quanto honore Herveius suscipitur a papa ex ipsius mandato ad regem H. directo amplius colligitur.

4. Mandatum pape constituendi episcopatum in Ely.

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5. Quod ex auctoritate apostolica episcopatus in Ely constituitur.

6. Carta regis H. quo modo abbatiam de Ely in episcopatum transmutavit.

7. Carta regis de omni libertate ecclesie.

8. Carta regis quod monachi Elyenses habeant equam portionem de rebus abbacie.

9. Quam viriliter Herveius ecclesiam de Ely et res ipsius ab injusta oppressione eripuit.

10. Carta regis de colligendo possessiones suas ad ecclesiam.

11. Carta regis contra invasores terrarum et bonorum S. Etheldrede.

12. Carta regis de adquietatione custodiarum oppidi de Northwich et de libertate onerose servitutionis qua ecclesia de Ely misere laborat.

13. Alia carta regis contra eos qui per potentiam possessiones et servitium ecclesie detinebant.

14. Aliud mandatum regis de libertate hundredorum.

15. Carta regis de relaxatione militum qui violenter ab ecclesia de Ely requirebantur.

16. Carta regis de condonationem pecunie que injuste exigebatur ab ecclesia.

17. Quod Herveius sua industria locum de Chatteris obtinuit et elyensis ecclesie jure perpetue possessionis ascriberet.

18. Carta regis de concessione abbacie de Chatteris in Ely cum omnibus ad eam pertinentibus.

19. Carta regis de relaxatione pecunie de ecclesia de Chatteris quam condonavit Sancte Etheldrede de Ely.

20. Carta regis H. de adquietatione ville de Haddam.

20b. Carta regis quod monachi et ecclesia S. Eth' in Ely de theloneo sint quieti ubique per Angliam.

20c. Alia carta de eodem.

21. Carta regis de libertate hundred' S. Etheldrede.

Notes to Lecture on

22. Carta regis quod S. Etheldreda ubique habeat libertatem super homines suos.

23. Quod Herveius victum monachorum divisit de rebus episcopalibus, constituens illis annonam sed brevem et nullatenus sufficientem.

24. Carta Herveii de particulis rerum quas ad victum monachorum constituit.

25. Laus auctoris de miraculis S. Eth' que contigerint temporibus Herveii.

26. Quod turris ad portam ecclesie ab igne fulguris erepta est.

27. De quodam contracto ad beatam Etheldredam sanato.

28. De quodam ydropsico qui opem salutis meruit ad beatam Etheldredam.

29. De muliere contracta ad sanct' Etheldr' sanatam.

29b. Ex revelacione per paludem fit via ad S' Etheldram.

30. De Brichstano compedito et a beata Etheldreda soluto.

31. Quomodo quidam a dolore capitis liberatus est, adjungens gene sue bogas sancte Etheldrede.

32. De magistro Radulfo per invocacionem nominis S. Etheldrede ab inflatone gutturi liberato.

33. Quod quidam omnibus membris destitutus restitutus est sanitati.

34. Quam maligne gestum sit erga ecclesiam S. Etheldrede.

35. Quomodo quidam nobilis tradidit se S. Etheldrede ad monachatum.

36. Quantum Herveius laboravit ut ecclesiam suam de Ely a injurationibus suis eriperet.

37. Quomodo Herveius vite modum fecit.

38. Quod S. Etheldreda cuidam infirmo apparuit promittens ei salutis remedium.

39. Quomodo S. Eth' visa fuit in quadam ecclesia orare, in una manu psalterium tenere, in altera vero cereum accensum.

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40. Quomodo ex consensu regis Nigellus est electus in episcopatum et a quo sacratus fuit.

41. Quanto honore Nigellus susceptus est a monachorum conventu in Ely et a populo sibi occurrente.

42. Quando post decessum regis Stephanus nepos illius factus est rex et quod dei ecclesiam in Anglia toto annisu intenderat venerari.

43. Quod quidam maligni a latere episcopi monachis insidias machinabantur.

44. Quod Nigellus precepit res S. Etheldrede describi et que ad ecclesiam revocaverit.

45. Carta Regis Stephani de omni libertate ecclesie S. Etheldrede.

46. Quomodo epūs jussit bona ecclesie interius describi et que vel quanta illic invenit.

47. Quam violenter epūs subripuit monachis res suas et magistro Ranulfo illorum adversario commisit, affligendo eos crudeliter.

48. Quomodo Ranulfus nefando preventus instinctu ad subvertendum patriam complices sibi allexit; sed per S. Eth' detectus proditoris conscius fugam iniit.

49. Quod epūs reddidit monachis bona sua, dolens quod male egerit contra illos.

50. Carta epī de rebus quas monachis mutuavit.

51. Privilegium pape continens res totius episcopatus, in perpetuum eas confirmandas.

52. Privilegium pape de rebus quas Nigellus (sed parvas) monachis constituit.

53. Miraculum quomodo mulier ceca illuminata est ad S. Etheldredam.

54. De quodam qui festum S. Etheldrede tenere noluit.

55. Quomodo aeger quidam sanatus est per tunicam S. Etheldrede.

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56. De puella dextro oculo cecata sub corpore S. Etheldrede illuminata.

57. De quodam monacho nostro usque ad mortem languente, sed a S. Etheld' sanato.

58. Quomodo seditio in patria orta est et quid amore regis Nigellus exivit de Ely.

59. Carta Stephani quod Monachi de Ely res suas in pace habeant.

60. Quod Stephanus insulam de Ely custodiendam tradidit et quomodo Nigellus in exilium commoratus est.

61. Mandatum pape ad epūm Winton' legatum Anglie de restituendo Nigellum in sedem suam.

62. Aliud mandatum ad Stephanum de restituendo Nigellum in sedem suam.

63. Aliud mandatum ad Nigellum quod benigne annuit suis petitionibus.

64. Aliud mandatum ad archiep̄s et ep̄s de suis petitionibus.

65. Quod homines ep̄i in Ely clam ingredientiſ oppreſſi ſunt a duce regis Gaufrido.

66. Preceptum Stephani quod Monachi de Ely libere et in pace teneant res suas.

67. Quomodo Stephanus a suis proditus sit et quod domina imperatrix totius patriae fere dominium obtinuit.

68. Quomodo Nigellus auxiliis domine imperatricis sedem suam receperit.

69. Quomodo Stephanus de captione ereptus fuit.

70. Carta Stephani de eo quod episcopatum Nigellus in pacem receperit.

71. Preceptum Stephani quod Monachi de Ely habeant debitas firmas de suis terris.

72. Quomodo Nigellus appellatus est ad Romam.

73. Quas res ecclesie sue Nigellus prodidit et quas iterum de ea sumpsit cum Romam perrexit.

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74. Quale mandatum obtinuit a papa Nigellus ad archiepūm et epōs Anglie.

75. Quid papa mandaverit capitulo Elyensi per Nigellum.

76. Mandatum pape ad Stephanum pro Nigello.

77. Quod Nigellus iterum offensam regis incurrit et qualiter tribulatio fuit in Anglia.

78. Mandatum pape ad Archiepūm Anglie pro Nigello.

79. Mandatum pape ad Archiepūm Rotomag' et epōs Norman-
nie pro Nigello.

80. Privilegium pape quod adquisivit Nigellus super rebus monachorum quas illis parvas constituit.

81. Quod Nigellus iterum offensam regis incurreret et quo-
modo ei fuit reconciliatus.

82. Carta Stephani de eo quod pacem concesserit Nigello.

83. Carta Stephani quod res Monachorum esse in pace pre-
cepit.

84. Quod Nigellus bona ecclesie iterius suscepit ad persol-
vendam pecuniam regi promissam.

85. Carta Nigelli quomodo reddiderit monachis villam de
Hadestoke.

86. Carta Theobaldi archiepī super eodem.

87. Qui fuerint fidejussores pro epō de pecunia ab ecclesia
ablata et quam misere eis contigerit.

88. Quam jocunda de S. Etheldreda manifestata est visio.

89. De Ailgeto agricolano S. Etheldrede.

90. Preceptum pape ad Nigellum de revocandis possessionibus
in ecclesiam S. Etheldrede.

91. Quod quidam per fraudem sibi usurpavit villam de
Steuchesworth.

92. Epistola de Ely ad papam de multa oppressione sibi illata.

93. Epistola Norvicensis epī ad papam de ecclesia Elyensi.

94. Epistola Archiepī epī ad papam de ecclesia Elyensi.

95. Rescriptum pape ad Archiepūm de ecclesia Elyensi.

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96. Quam prudenter Rome et constanter Ricardus frater noster circa necessitates loci laboraverit.

97. Preceptum pape quod Monachi de Ely in pace possideant ecclesias de insula.

98. Epistola conventus ecclesie Elyensis missa ad papam.

99. Preceptum pape ad Herefordensium epū in auxilium Elyensis ecclesie.

100. Preceptum pape quod Monachi de Ely habeant in pace ecclesias de terris suis.

101. Carta Theobaldi super ecclesias Monachorum de Ely.

102. Carta Theobaldi quod Monachi de Ely jure obtineant ecclesias insule.

103. Epistola Gilberti Herefordens' epī ad papam pro nimia oppressione ecclesie de Ely.

104. Preceptum pape quod Monachi Elyens' in pace recipiant suam possessionem et libere possideant.

105. Mandatum pape capitulo Elyensi qd. libere suscipiant possessionem suam de Steuchworth.

106. Carta Herefordens' epi de possessione Elyensibus Monachis reddita.

107. Carta Herefordens' qualiter excluserit invasores de possessione Monachorum de Ely.

108. Carta Theobaldi de Steucheworde Monachis Elyensibus reddito.

109. Carta Stephani qd. Elyenses Monachi libere habeant Steucheworde.

110. Quod quidam debito constrictus erga Monachos de Ely perjurii crimen incurrerit.

111. Quam miserecorditer deus operatus est circa quendam infirmum per merita S. Etheldrede ad fontem ejus sanatum.

112. Aliud miraculum de fonte S. Etheldrede.

113. Aliud miraculum de fonte S. Etheldrede.

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114. Quam disrecte deus vindicaverit injurias dilecte sue virginis Etheldrede.

115. Quomodo deus ultionem fecerit de hostibus S. Etheldrede.

116. De presbytero qui festa sanctarum pronunciare noluit.

117. De palla S. Etheldrede quae mirabiliter restituta est Elyensi ecclesie.

118. Quod Nigellus suspensus fuit pro bonis S. Etheldrede dispersis.

119. Mandatum pape de eodem ad Elyense capitulum.

120. Item de eodem ad archiepū de revocandis bonis S. Etheldrede in locum de Ely.

121. Epistola exhortatoria Archiepi de eodem.

122. Preceptum pape de eodem.

123. Mandatum pape ad regem Henricum de coexercendis malefactoribus ecclesie Elyensis.

124. Quod Nigellus precepto apostolici juraverit reparare bona ecclesie sue et sic meruit relaxari a suspensione.

125. Miraculum de quodam puero monacho a S. Etheldreda sanato.

126. De monacho per S. Etheldredam liberato.

127. De nautis in periculo maris per S. Etheldredam salvatis.

128. Carta nigelli qd. Monachi de Ely libere et in pace teneant ecclesias suas.

129. Carta ne quis successorum ejus Monachos de Ely inquietet de tenuris suis.

130. Carta de terra Dervedern.

131. Quomodo Nigellus infirmabatur et de ipsius obitu.

132. Quam disrecte deus injurias S. Etheldrede vindicaverit et quomodo Robertus dedit Deneiam S. Etheldrede.

133. Carta Roberti camerii qd. dedit S. Etheldrede Deneiam.

134. Carta Comitiss Britannie de eodem.

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135. Carta Alberici Picot quomodo Elyens' Monachi emerint partem suam de Deneia.

136. Carta nigelli de eodem.

137. Poss . . . Sanctissimi Thonis Martyris Cant' Archiepi.

8. "Liber Eliensis," i. 9., p. 34.

9. Bede's "Hist. Eccles.," iv. 19 and 20.

10. Life of S. Etheldreda, written in hexameters in the time of Henry I. by Gregory, a monk of Ely, to commemorate the foundation of the Bishopric. It is unpublished and contains some curious passages describing the church and neighbourhood of Ely (cf. Hardy's Catalogue, i. pt. 780-1).

In MSS. Cotton. Faustina, B. iii. ff. 260-274, bound in vellum, small folded, xv. century, is another life in English verse, unfortunately imperfect but running to the length of 1200 lines.

There is a life in Capgrave, a compilation, ff. 141-2, and also a life of S. Etheldreda, Holy Virgin, in MS. Bodl., 779 ff. 279, b. 280, from which the lines are taken forming the motto to this Lecture (cf. Hardy's Catalogue, i. 278-284).

11. "Liber Eliensis," i. 2, 3. The monk Thomas, however, in speaking of Hereswitha, as the wife of King Anna, confounds the family of Anna with that of his brother Ethelhere, for Hereswitha, who was a daughter of Hereric of the Royal House of Northumbria, was married to Ethelhere, King of East Anglia (654), and by him became mother of Aldulf and Alfwold, who succeeded their uncle in the kingdom.

When, however, we remember that Hereswitha was a sister of S. Hilda, the celebrated Abbess of Whitby, it is natural, I think, to conjecture that, during the visit of a year which we know S. Hilda paid to the Court of Anna in 647, the East Anglian king's daughters, and not least his third daughter Etheldreda, came strongly under the influence, as their after career seems to

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show, of "this Deborah of the Northern Church," as Bishop Lightfoot happily calls her.

"It is no strained parallel," he says in a passage which aptly characterises the temper of the period, "to compare her with the Hebrew heroine. The period of the Heptarchy was to England what the period of the Judges was to Israel. It was an epoch of ferment and disturbance, a great seething time, when the elements destined to compose the mighty England of the generations to come were still struggling one with another, till at length they settled down, and order was restored out of chaos. Pagan and believer lived side by side, and fought one with another. Among Christian princes themselves the conflicts were frequent and deadly. Only now and then one king towered above his peers, and forced them to acknowledge his supremacy: just as ever and again one judge in Israel mightier than the rest had been recognised by all the tribes as their supreme ruler. The Church of Christ, having a principle of unity in itself, was the great moral power which composed and harmonised these discordant elements. The unity of the State arose out of the unity of the Church. In this great work of pacification our Northumbrian Deborah bore a conspicuous part. Northumbria was the centre and the focus of light to England. Hilda was in God's hands a chief maker of England, as Deborah was a chief maker of Israel. . . . But Hilda does not stand alone. She was a type, albeit the highest type, of a numerous band of women, more especially in early times, queens and princesses, who realised the prophetic foreshadowing and became nursing mothers of their own Israel. Shall we forget that the two ancient Universities of this land both trace back their spiritual descent to women of royal blood—Oxford to S. Frideswide and Cambridge to S. Etheldreda? And may we not here note the coincidence that the reigns of three female sovereigns, Elizabeth, Anne, Victoria, mark the three most signal epochs in the history of English literature?"

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Bishop Lightfoot's "Leaders of the Northern Church," pp. 61, 68.

12. "A Saxon Prince, who combined in his own person the fiercest energy of a Teuton warrior, with the sternest resistance to the progress of the new creed; who, succeeding to power at fifty years old, was for thirty years the prop and the sword of Heathendom, and also came near to reducing the various kingdoms to a monarchy, centred in the youngest of them all. This was Penda the strenuous, King of the Mercians, whose name was long a terror to the inmates of cell and minster in every Christianised district. There is a sort of weird grandeur in the career of one who, in his time, slew five kings, and might seem as irresistible as destiny." Bright, "Early English Church History," p. 132.

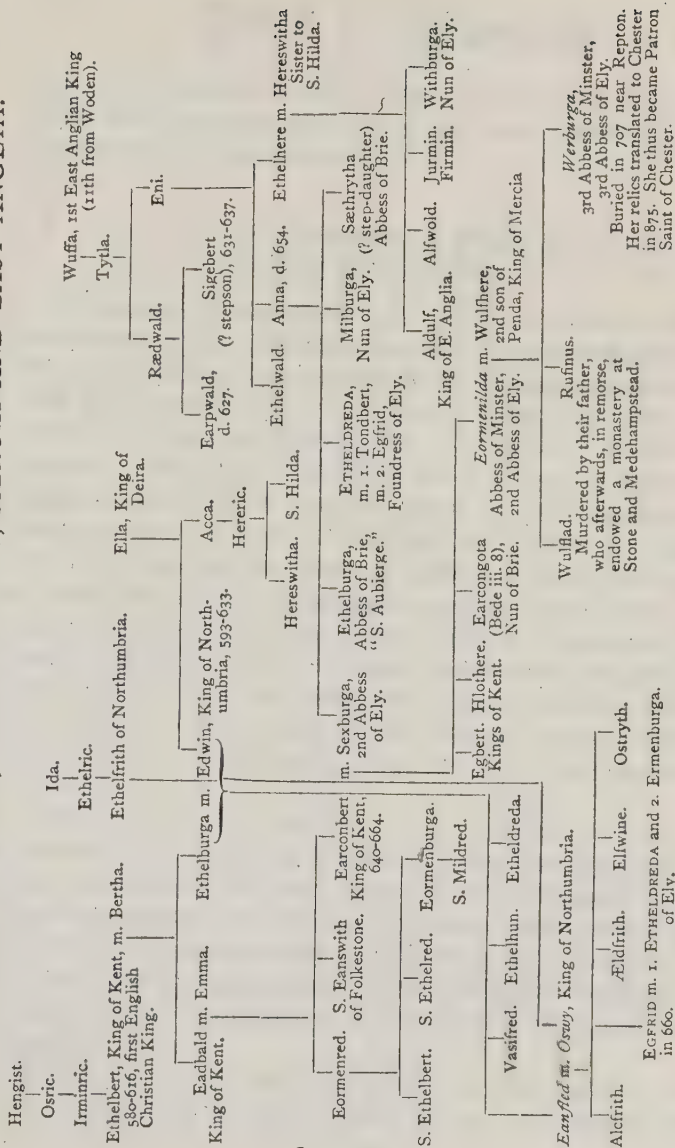
These five kings were Edwin, at Hatfield (633), Egric and Sigebert, kings of East Anglia (635), Oswald, at Maserfield (642), Anna, King of East Anglia (654). Penda himself was slain by Oswy, of Northumbria, at Winwædfield (Nov. 15, 655).

As the war was concluded "in regione Loidis," the Winwæd is probably the Broad Are, which flows by Leeds. The battle gave rise to a proverbial saying—

"Unde dicitur,
In Vinwæd amne vindicata est wædes Annæ,
Cædes regum Sigbert et Egrice
Cædes regum Oswald at Edwine."

"With Penda fell Paganism." Penda's son, Peada, had been baptized by Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne, two years before his father's death, and when the great kingdom of Mercia became free and united again under Penda's son, Wulfhere, the teaching of the Celtic bishops had won its way, and monarch and people embraced Christianity.

13. TABLE SHOWING RELATIONSHIP OF S. ETHELDREDA TO THE ROYAL HOUSES OF KENT, NORTHUMBRIA, MERCA AND EAST ANGLIA.



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14. The subjects of the Sculptures on the bases of the tabernacles which decorate the piers of the great Lantern of Alan de Walsingham, are as follows:—

I. The marriage of Etheldreda with Prince Egfrid, afterwards King of Northumbria.

The central figure is that of Archbishop Wilfrid, of York, who is celebrating the marriage. His crozier and aspergil, or holy water sprinkler, are carried by attendant monks on his left. The king, placing the bride's hand in that of her husband, is apparently Etheldreda's uncle, King Ethelbald, her father and mother at this time both being dead. The crowned female figure on her right is probably her elder sister, Sexburga, the widowed Queen of Earconbert, King of Kent, Abbess of Minster, and afterwards her successor as Abbess of Ely. On her right are also three other female figures, and one male figure, with a raised sword, or staff of office, which may well be meant for her friend, and chief minister, or major domo, Ovin, who, we know, accompanied her to the north, and was present at her marriage. On the left of Prince Egfrid, with his hand on the Prince's left elbow, is a male figure, in round cap and robe; beyond are four monks.

This marriage took place in A.D. 660, according to Florence of Worcester, and the Monk Thomas ("Liber Eliensis," i. 8), who says "anno post interitum patris sui sexto, unanimi voluntate parentum, tempore Edelwoldi patru sui, qui post beatum Annam et alterum fratrem ejus nomine Edelherum regnavit, iterum datur in conjugium viro alteri, regi videlicet Ægfrido filio Oswi regis Northamhimbrorum, cujus pater Ædelfridus cujus pater Ædelricus."

Egfrid was very young at the time of this marriage—hardly more than fifteen or sixteen years of age; and though the age

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of Etheldreda is not precisely known, yet, as she had previously been married and had been a widow for five years, there must have been a considerable difference in their ages. Of the nature of this second marriage, as of the first, we may judge from the following extract from Beda, "Hist. Eccl." iv. 19.

"Moreover, King Ecgfrid took a wife of the name Æthildryth, the daughter of Anna, King of the East Angles, of whom I have often made mention, a man truly religious and altogether excellent in mind and in deed. She had been the wife of another man before him—to wit, the chief of the South Gyrvi, by name Tonbert. But on his death, a short time after he received her, she was given to the aforesaid King, with whom she lived twelve years, yet she remained glorious in the perpetual integrity of her virginity, as, on my enquiring, when certain persons doubted whether this were so, Bishop Wilfrid, of blessed memory, informed me, saying that he was a most sure witness of her integrity, inasmuch as Ecgfrid had promised to give him much land and money if he could persuade the Queen to allow him his conjugal rights, because he knew that she loved no man more than him." The Monk Thomas does not hesitate to say of this incident, although there is no hint of the kind in Bede's record, that the influence of Wilfrid was secretly exerted to confirm the resolution of the Queen, and that it was through his means that a divorce was suggested and carried out, after great opposition from Ecgfrid. The facts, moreover, of Wilfrid's life at this time in the Northumbrian Court, and his unpopularity with the King, as related by his biographer Ædde, are quite consistent with such a supposition. But the historian Bede confines himself to the bare statement of the fact. "She had greatly entreated the King that she might be permitted to leave the cares of the world, and in a Monastery serve Christ alone, the true King: and when she had with difficulty at last obtained her request, she entered the Monastery of the Abbess

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Æbba, who was the paternal aunt of King Ecgfrid, which was situated in the place which they call the city of Colud, having received the veil of the saintly habit from the aforesaid prelate Wilfrid."

This place is now called Coldingham, and is not far from Berwick, close to the promontory, still called, in memory of the Abbess, St Abb's Head.

The subject of the sculpture on the second corbel in the Lantern represents this scene.

II. *The Dedication of Etheldreda in the Convent at Coldingham.*

The Queen is represented kneeling, with devoutly folded hands, before an altar upon which she has placed her crown. Behind it on the left stands the Abbess Æbba. In her hand she holds one end of the veil, which is placed over the Queen's head and falls down on her right shoulder. Behind the Abbess are four nuns, the foremost of which holds her pastoral staff, the crook turned outwards. Behind the Queen stands the Archbishop Wilfrid, his left hand grasping the crozier, his right laid in benediction on the veiled head of the kneeling postulant. An attendant priest and two other, apparently secular, figures, complete the sculpture.

The two following corbels are carved with "Acts of the Saint," miraculous incidents in her life, which are only recorded in the 12th century record of the "Liber Eliensis." In book i. chapter ii. the Monk Thomas tells us that the Queen remained in the monastery at Coldingham for about a year, when the King, having repented of his former complaisance, made an attempt to carry her off by force from the monastery. Etheldreda, however, by the advice of the Abbess, who had heard of the King's intention, determines to make her way southwards to Ely. The two following pieces of sculpture represent incidents of this

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flight. The carved corbels, however, are in reverse historical order. The first incident is that represented on the fourth, not the third corbel.



IV. *The Miracle on S. Abb's Head, by which Etheldreda is preserved from the King.*

The incident is thus related in the "Liber Eliensis" i. 11 :—

"And the Queen going forth secretly with two handmaidens of God, Sewenna and Seware, came to a lofty hill which was not far from the monastery, called Colde-burcheshevet, or in Latin, 'Caput-Coldburci,' which she ascended. But God, who commands the winds and the waves and they obey Him, does not forsake those that put their trust in Him, and so by His command, as we

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believe, the sea, leaving its natural channel and pouring out its waters abundantly, surrounded the hill on which the holy virgins had taken refuge, and as we are told by the inhabitants of the place, for seven whole days, while they continued in prayer and without food or drink, the tide protected them, and what is most wonderful, forgetting its accustomed ebb, it tarried there as long as the King remained. . . . And so the handmaiden of Christ, secure in her rocky eminence, escaped the wrath of the King and suffered no hurt from him at all. . . . And at length Egfrid returned to York, and thereafter no longer as in old days bore goodwill or confided in Wilfrid, the saintly confessor, but in silence daily nursed his anger against him, and waited for the opportunity when he should depose him from his bishopric. And since it was impossible after every loyal effort to persuade the holy Queen to return to him as his wife, he by-and-bye contracted a marriage with Ermenburga."

The second miracle, as related by Thomas ("Lib. Eliensis," i. 13), and sculptured on the third corbel of the series, is

III. *The Pilgrim's Staff of Etheldreda, taking root as she sleeps by the way, and bearing leaves and fruit.*

After the departure of the disappointed King, Etheldreda, with her two companions Sewenna and Seware, proceeded on their journey. She crossed the Humber at Wintringham, and built a church at Altham. Bentham, in a note on this statement of Thomas, says that he probably means she gave orders for the building of a church, and it is certainly interesting to know that at the village of West Hatton, near Wintringham, not far from Doncaster, the parish church is still called after S. Etheldreda. From Altham the pilgrims continued their flight on foot, not by the direct road, for fear of pursuers, but by bye-ways and lanes.



Queen Etheldreda (St. Audrey) takes the Veil.

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And one day, "tired with the long journey and overcome with the heat, by the grace of God having found a quiet resting-place, sprinkled with flowers of many colours, and fresh with sweet scented grasses, the Queen lies down by the wayside to rest. And she sleeps, watched by her two faithful handmaidens. And lo, when she awoke from her sleep she found that her pilgrim's



staff, which she had fixed in the ground by her side, dead and dry, for she had had it a long time, had put forth branches clothed with green bark, and bearing leaves: and when she perceived this thing she stood in wonder, and then with her companions praised God for so wonderful a deed from her inmost heart." And the staff thus miraculously planted "became," says Thomas, "an ash tree, and is the greatest of all the trees in that

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province, and the place where it grew is to this day called *Ældredhestowe*, or in Latin, '*Repausatio Etheldredæ*,' and there is now built a church, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, to the praise of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is venerated in his saints."

But where that place may be, I cannot tell, I can only say with Bentham, in the last century, "I am sorry I am not able to direct the reader, not being sufficiently acquainted with the country." It is interesting to notice, however, that much the same story is told by Malmesbury concerning the pastoral staff of Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne ("*Anglia Sacra*," ii. 24), nor can we forget the celebrated legend of the miraculous thorn which sprang up from the pilgrim's staff of S. Joseph of Arimathæa, when he rested on Glastonbury Hill at the end of his long journey from the Holy Land. It is a little odd, however, that Alan de Walsingham's sculptors in the fourteenth century should have represented S. Awdrey's miraculous staff, not as an ash, but as a medlar, the mystic tree of the Saxons.

V. *Archbishop Wilfrid installing Etheldreda as Abbess of Ely.*

As a piece of artistic grouping this sculpture is probably the most beautiful of all the eight corbels. The figure of the Abbess, seated on her throne, veiled and crowned, with the staff of her office in her right hand, is specially dignified and graceful. The Bishop is supported on his right by four monks; the Queen on her left by four nuns. It is noticeable that Wilfrid in this and the following piece of sculpture is represented, not as in numbers I. and II., with the archiepiscopal crozier, but with a simple Bishop's crook. This is significant perhaps of the historical accuracy of the designer of these groups. In the former two scenes Wilfrid was exercising authority in his own Northumbrian diocese, here at Ely, consecrating his old friend, he is a banished Bishop on his way to Rome to appeal against the decision of

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Theodore of Canterbury, who, without the knowledge of Wilfrid, and with the encouragement of Wilfrid's enemy, King



Egfrid, had at this time proceeded to the subdivision of the great northern diocese.

VI. *The Death and "Chesting" of S. Etheldreda.*

In the right-hand division of this sculpture, the dying Queen is represented lying on her bed, her abbatial staff in her hand. At her side stands her priest Huna elevating the consecrated Host. Behind him, holding with clasped hands a cross and rosary, stands the tall striking figure of a nun, who may well be S. Awdry's sister Sexburga, the widowed Queen of Kent, who

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had early joined her sister's convent, and beyond her again two other nuns. In the second division the dead Queen is being placed in her coffin, which Bishop Wilfrid is blessing. Beyond the Bishop, on his left, stands a monk holding a book, from which the Bishop reads; on his right, the Priest Huna with a censer,



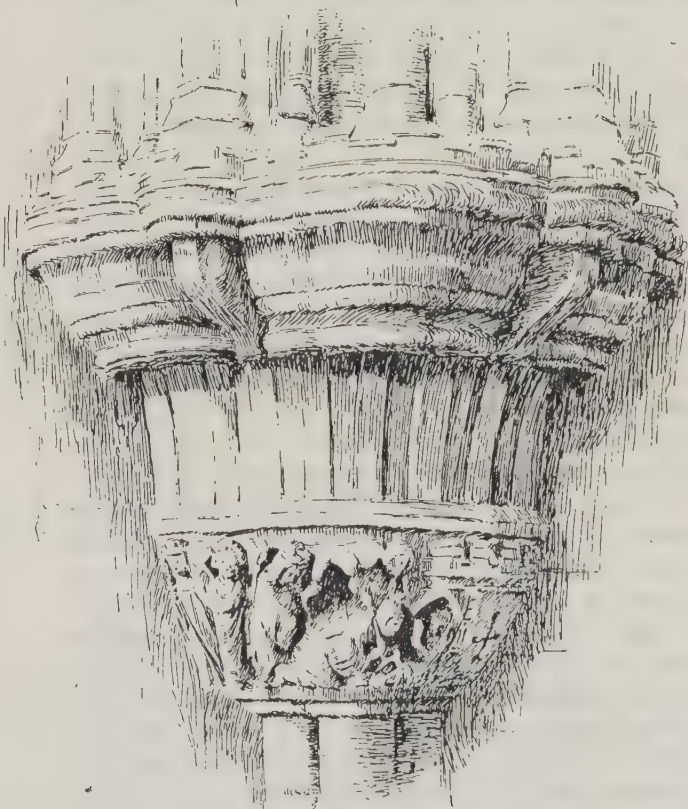
and kneeling at the coffin end the Queen's physician Kinefrid, from whom Bede learned several particulars of her death. Two weeping nuns are again in the background.

VII. *The Miracle of the Delivery of Brythstan from Prison by S. Benedict and S. Etheldreda.*

This legend is told at some length in the "*Liber Eliensis*," iii. 33, and is shortly to this effect. There was a certain man, in the days of Henry I., who lived at the village of Catericht (or

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Chatteris), by name Brytstan, who got his living by usury. Having fallen sick, and being in much pain and weakness, he vowed that if by the divine grace he was restored to health, he



would don the habit of a monk in the convent of S. Etheldreda. Upon his recovery he accordingly prepares to keep his vow. But a certain man, Robert Malarte by name, a servant of the king,

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but especially a servant of the devil, hearing of the matter, falsely accuses Brytstan of wishing to become a monk only that he may conceal his robberies from the king. The innocent man is haled before the judge at Huntingdon, and by false witness condemned. He is carried away to London in chains and cast into a dungeon. There he remains for many months in much torture and agony, praying ceaselessly, and calling for help to S. Benedict and S. Etheldreda, to whose service he had vowed himself. And at last his cry is heard. One night a bright light shines in the dungeon, and he is aware of two dazzling figures, and a voice speaks to him and says, "I am Etheldreda whom thou hast so ceaselessly invoked, and this is S. Benedict, in whose habit thou wishest to become a servant of God. Dost thou wish to be freed from thy bonds?" and then, turning to Benedict, the holy virgin said, "Lord Benedict, do thou what God has commanded." And the saint stooped to the chained prisoner, and taking one of the rings between two links in his finger drew it easily asunder, and cast the chain from him with such vehemence that he woke the guards. They immediately enter the cell to find the prisoner released from his bonds. The matter is reported to Queen Matilda, who sends one of her chaplains to investigate. He reports that indeed a notable miracle has been wrought. Brytstan is released. The rumour of the miracle spreads like wildfire through the city. He is followed by crowds from shrine to shrine. At Westminster he is received by the Prior and Convent with such honour as would be ordinarily only given to the relics of a saint. Queen Matilda expresses the hope that she may be allowed to retain the iron collar and chains, but Brytstan begs that he may be allowed to take them to the convent of S. Etheldreda. The Queen consents, and orders that he should be conveyed to Ely with all honour. On his arrival, the people of the city, young and old, virgins and widows, and an innumerable multitude receive him with thanksgiving to Almighty God; and

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the Bishop and all the brethren of the convent receive him praising God and S. Etheldreda. And there he takes his place, having donned the habit of a monk. And the chains by which he was bound are hung up before the altar in the church, "in memory of so great a miracle, and to the praise of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen."

And there for many a long day they seem to have remained, a cause of much reverence and perhaps superstition. At anyrate, to the pilgrims who flocked to S. Awdrey's Shrine it seems to have become a custom of the convent to give, in memory of this miracle and of the virtues of S. Awdrey, and as a memento of their visit to Ely, miniature shackles like those of Brytstan. These are "the S. Awdry's chains" which at a later time had degenerated into plaited ribands, and are still to be bought among the *t'awdry* finery of the annual fair. Fuller, in his "Church History," ii. 91 [quoting Hierome Porter, "Flowers of the Saints," and Harpsfield, sec. 7, cap. 24] says:—

"In memory of her our Englishwomen are wont to wear about their necks a certain chain made of fine small silk, which they call *Etheldred's Chain*. I must professe myself not so well acquainted with the sex as either to confute or confirm the truth thereof."

VIII. *The First Translation of S. Etheldreda.*

The following is the account given by Bede ("Hist. Eccles.," iv. 19) and repeated with some amplification by the monk Thomas ("Lib. Eliens.," i. 27):—

"When she had been buried sixteen years, the same Abbess (Etheldreda's sister Sexburga) thought fit that her bones should be taken up, and having been put in a new coffin, should be transferred to the Church; and she ordered certain of the brethren to seek for a stone of which they might make a coffin for this purpose; and they having gone on board a ship (for the same region

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of Elge is on every side encompassed by waters and swamps, and has no large stones) came to a certain desolate little city, situate not far from thence, which is called in the tongue of the Angles, Granta cæstir, and presently they found close to the walls of the city a coffin beautifully wrought of white marble, and covered also most exactly with a lid of the same kind of stone. Whence understanding that their journey had been blessed by the Lord, they gave thanks and returned to the monastery.

“And when the sepulchre had been opened, and the body of the sacred Virgin and Spouse of Christ had been brought from the open sepulchre to light, it was found as uncorrupted as if she had died or been laid in the ground on that same day, according as the aforesaid prelate Wilfrid, and many others who knew it, testify. But the physician Kynefrid, who was present both at her death and also when she was taken up from the tomb, had more sure knowledge; and he was wont to relate, that in her illness she had a very great tumour under her jaw. ‘And they ordered me,’ said he, ‘to lance the tumour, that the noxious humour that was in it might escape; which, when I had done, she seemed somewhat relieved for two days, so that many thought she might recover from her distemper. But on the third day, being oppressed by the return of her former pains, she was soon snatched from this world, and exchanged all pain and death for eternal salvation and life, and when, after so many years, her bones were to be taken up from the sepulchre, and a tent (*‘et desuper decenter composito papilionis umbraculo’*) having been spread above it, all the convent (*‘congregatio’*) of the brothers on one side and of the sisters on the other, were standing around it singing psalms—but the Abbess herself with a few others had entered within to take up and wash the bones—suddenly we heard the Abbess within proclaim with a loud voice, ‘Glory be to the name of the Lord most high!’ And not long after they called for me, the door of the tent being opened from within,

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and I saw the body of the virgin, sacred to God, raised from the tomb and placed on a couch, as though like one asleep. Moreover, the covering of the face having been taken off, they also showed me the wound of the incision which I had made, healed up, so that in a wonderful manner instead of the open and gaping wound with which she had been buried, there then appeared the slightest traces only of a scar! Besides this, all the linen garments in which the body was wrapped appeared whole, and so new that they seemed to have been put on her chaste limbs that very day. Moreover, they relate that when she was afflicted with the aforesaid tumour and pain of the jaw and cheek, she was much pleased with this kind of distemper, and was wont to say—‘I know most surely that I deservedly bear the weight of my illness on my neck, on which, I remember, that when a young girl I bore a needless weight of necklaces; and I believe that to this end the Supreme Goodness would have me be afflicted with pain in my neck, that thus I may be absolved from the guilt of idle levity; since I have now, instead of gold and pearls, the redness and heat of a tumour prominent on my neck.’ Moreover, it happened that, by the touch of the same vestments, demons were put to flight from the bodies possessed by them, and other distempers, in some cases, cured. Also, they say, that the coffin in which she was at first buried was a means of cure to some who were afflicted in their eyes, who, when they had put their heads to the same coffin and prayed, presently were relieved of the discomfort of pain and dimness in their eyes. (To this the Monk Thomas adds, “L. E.” i. 31, that a healing fountain burst forth from the spot where her body had lain.) They washed, therefore, the body of the virgin, and having put on it new garments, took it into the Church, and placed it in that sarcophagus which had been brought, where, even to this day, it is held in great veneration. Indeed, in a wonderful manner, the sarcophagus was found fitted for the

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body of the virgin, just as if it had been specially prepared for it: and the place for the head, worked as a separate part, appeared more aptly shaped to the measure of the head."

Of this white marble sarcophagus Fuller, in his "Church History," ii. 92, says:—"But Io Caius, Fellow of Gonville Hall, within ten miles of Ely, at the Dissolution of Abbeys, being reputed no great enemy to the Romish religion, doth on his own knowledge report, in his 'Hisor: Cantab:' lib. i. p. 8:—

" 'Quamquam illius ævi cæcibus admirationem in eo paret, quod regnante Hen. nuper 8, dirutum idem sepulchrum ex lapide communi fuit, non, ut Beda narrat, ex albo marmore.'

" 'Although the blindness of that age bred admiration therein, yet when the tombe was pluckt down in the reign of King Henry the Eighth, it was found made of common stone, and not of white marble, as Bede reporteth.'

"Thus was her tomb degraded and debased one degree, which makes the truth of all the rest to be suspected. And if all Popish miracles were brought to the test, they would be found to shrink from marble to common stone, nay from stone to dirt and untempered mortar."

Stevenson, in his "Notes to Bentham's History," p. 36, says, on the authority of Bentham's "Notitia," that a lease of Barton Farm was granted by Bishop Redman, and dated Downham, Aug. 14, 20. Henry VII. Among other things it is therein covenanted "that it shall not be lefall to no man, but onely to the said Bysshoppe and to his successors, to take awaye the water, nor no partye thereof, coming from *S. Awdre's Well*."

In the possession of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House is a very remarkable picture, a photogravure of which forms the frontispiece to this book, containing four scenes in the Life of S. Awdrey, which may well be compared with these sculptured legends in the octagon. The picture consists of four scenes painted on wooden panels, and has apparently formed a

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portion of an altar piece or retable in the Minster. The painting is evidently of late fourteenth or early fifteenth century work, possibly by some Flemish painter of the school of the Van Eycks. There is much in the style and colouring of the first panel that reminds one of the painting of the brilliant robes of the Angel Choir in Van Eyck's picture of the Adoration of the Immaculate Lamb, forming the altar piece at S. Bavon, Ghent.

The fourth panel, representing S. Awdrey's Translation, is especially interesting archeologically, for as the painting cannot certainly be later than the fifteenth century, we have here in all probability an accurate representation of the celebrated "white marble sarcophagus" of the records, which was an object of so much reverence down to the time of its disappearance in the sixteenth century.

The panels were presented to the Society of Antiquaries by Mr Kerrick early in this century, at that time University Librarian at Cambridge. The following is taken from his notebook, now in the possession of Mr Albert Hartshorne, his eldest surviving grandson.

"These very ancient tables, each containing two pictures of the life of S. Ethel^a on board. Mr James Bentham, author of the 'History of Ely,' found these pictures many years ago in a cottage at Ely, split and much damaged. One of them was cut in pieces to eke out the other two, to fit them for doors to a cupboard, and of course is the most mutilated of all. He gave them to me August 5th, 1792, and I have set them together and mended them as well as I can. The subjects are 'The Marriage of S. Ea,' 'The building of the Monastery of Ely,' 'S. Ea taking leave of her husband and retiring to a Convent,' 'Translation of her body.' They are very curious, and seem to be as old as the time of Henry 6th. What is left of them is pure and not repainted."

Sir G. Scharf wrote all he could find about the Kerrick bequest in his Catalogue, published in the *Fine Arts Quarterly Review*,

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1865, and he likewise printed a paper on them in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Nov. 20, 1862.

15. Bede, "Hist. Eccles." iv. 3, where Ovin is spoken of as "a monk of great merit, having left the world purely for the sake of reward from above, and worthy in all respects to have the secrets of the Lord specially revealed to him, and worthy to have credit given by his hearers to what he said. For he had come with Queen Ædilrythe from the province of the East Angles, and was the chief of her attendants and her major domo." The monk Thomas mentions him twice in his history—"Lib. Eliensis," i. chapter 8 and again chapter 23. In the first place he is spoken of as among the nobles of the province of the East Angles, who came to Northumbria with Etheldreda "inter quos præcipuæ auctoritatis vir magnificus erat Owinus nomine, monachus magni meriti et plura intentione supernæ retributionis mundum derelinquens, dignus cui Dominus specialiter sua revelaret archana, dignus cui fidem narranti aures accommodarent." In chapter 23, Thomas calls him "Owinus nomine, monachus, *pædagogus*, et princeps domus illius, conscius et secretorum cœlestium auditor."

This characteristic is evidently in allusion to the beautiful incident told by Bede of the heavenly song heard by Ovin announcing the death of S. Chad. "And when one day he was doing some such work out-of-doors, his companions having gone to the church, and the Bishop being alone in the oratory of the place, was attending to reading or prayer, he suddenly heard, as he afterwards related, a most sweet voice of persons singing and rejoicing descend from heaven even unto the earth; which voice to wit, he said, that he first heard from the south-east, that is, from the part of the sky above sunrise at the winter solstice (*ab alto brumalis exortus*), and that then by degrees it approached him, until it reached the roof of the oratory in which the Bishop was, having entered which, it filled the whole of it, and encircled it

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about. And afterwards, when he asked S. Chad what that song was, the Bishop answered—"If you heard the voice of the song and perceived the heavenly companies coming down from heaven above this oratory, I charge you, in the name of the Lord, not to tell this to any one before my decease. For, in truth, they were angelic spirits who came to call me to the heavenly rewards which I have always loved and desired, and promised that they would return after seven days, and take me with them." Which, indeed, was fulfilled by the event." S. Chad died on March 2, 672. S. Etheldreda's monastery was founded in the following year, and there is much probability that Ovin returned to the service of his former Queen and mistress, Abbess of Ely.

THE CROSS OF S. OVIN.

The cross of S. Ovin, which now stands in the south aisle of the nave, was brought to Ely by Bentham in the last century, from the neighbouring village of Haddenham, where he says "it had long served only for a horse block." He adds, in a note to page 51 of his "History of Ely" that he is indebted to Dr Stukely, F.R.S., Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, for the following remarks on the stone:—"The inscription at Haddenham I took fifty years ago (at the beginning of the eighteenth century) when a lad at Cambridge. The stone was the foot of a cross erected by S. Ovin, House Steward to S. Awdrey. He lived at Winford (about a mile and a half from Haddenham) so corrupted from Owin's worth, Ovin prædicem, a tenant of Tondbert's, Prince of the South Gervii, whose estate, the Isle of Ely, was Awdrey's jointure: so came she and Ovin acquainted. Ovin is a Welsh name, for the Isle of Ely was possessed by the old Britons long after the Saxons had taken hold of England, as before was the case in Roman times. I have long ago taken drawings of S. Chad's habitation by the neighbouring Church of Lichfield, where your Ovin heard the angels at S. Chad's obit."

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16. "Liber Eliensis," i. 15.

17. The collection of early charters is very large, and cannot be estimated at fewer than 800. As a rule these charters are in a wonderful state of preservation, and have evidently been guarded with jealous vigilance for ages. They generally retain their seals unbroken, beautifully distinct and unusually free from blemish. Bentham, in his "History of Ely," has printed some few of them—twenty-six, I think, in all; but more than 400 of these charters date from a time anterior to the accession of Richard II., and form, in fact, a most valuable *apparatus* for a complete history of the external fortunes of the monastery. The future historian of Ely will be deeply indebted to Archdeacon Chapman, who for many years has devoted himself to the careful arrangement of these documents with an enthusiasm and assiduity which is beyond all praise. He has already arranged with great ingenuity, and added a short analysis of upwards of 500 of these precious documents, and arranged them in tin boxes under lock and key in the Cathedral Muniment Room.

18. Bede, "Hist. Eccles.," iv. 19.

19. "Liber Eliensis," i. 38.

20. "Liber Eliensis," i. 41.

21. "Liber Eliensis," ii. 52.

22. King Eadgar's Charter is given in full in the "Liber Eliensis," ii. 5.

23. Brythnoth, "Liber Eliensis," ii. 62.

Brythnoth is called in the "Liber Eliensis" "Dux Northanimbrorum," but he appears really to have held one of the two great Ealdormanries of East England, which was established by King Eadmund, probably with a view of weakening the Danelaw by detaching from it all that was least Danish, and that could be thoroughly re-anglicised as a portion of the English realm. The Ealdormanry of East Anglia was entrusted to Athelstan, a noble of the royal kin, and the Ealdormanry of the East Saxons to

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Ælfgar, the king's father-in-law, who was succeeded by Brithnoth, the husband of Ælflæd, Ælfrid's daughter. At a somewhat later time we find the name of "Brithnoth Dux" always following the names of the great Ealdorman of Mercia and East Anglia in the order of signatures in the numerous charters of Eadgar's reign. In the jealousies that arose about the disputed succession after Eadgar's death, we find Brithnoth siding with Æthelwine of East Anglia at the head of the monastic party, as against Dunstan's influence with the boy king. That he was a special friend of the monks of Ely we know from the story which is told in the "History of Ramsey" ("Hist: Ramesiens:" xv. 70, 71), and repeated in the "Liber Eliensis." This record tells how, when Brythnoth was hurrying with his forces to meet Olaf, who with his Norwegian Wikings had landed on the eastern coasts, he came to the Abbey of Ramsey, and was churlishly refused hospitality by the abbot, save for himself only and five or six of his selected friends. "Tell my Lord Abbot," cried Brithnoth, "that I will not dine without my men, because I cannot fight without them," and so passed on to the abbey of Ely, where the abbot, Elsin, warned of his coming, sent to meet him with the wiser message, "That in acts of kindness and charity the abbot of Ely was not deterred by any numbers, but rather rejoiced at the occasion of their coming." There he and his men were sumptuously entertained; and on the next day, to show his gratitude, the great Ealdorman meets the Abbot and monks in the chapter-house, thanks them for their noble hospitality, puts them into possession at once of many manors, and promises them several others, if by chance being slain in battle they will carry off his body and bury it in their Church; and so, commending himself and his men to their prayers, departs to meet the enemy. The story of the battle and the death of the hero is told in one of the oldest poems in the English language. Mr Thorpe, who has published it in his "Analecta Anglo-Saxonica," says that

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the only known manuscript of this valuable fragment perished in the fire at the Cottonian Library in 1731. That the poem was not wholly lost is owing to the fact that Hearne published it as prose at the end of his edition of "*Johannis Glastoniensis Chronicon*." It is a spirited battle piece, full of vigour and force and picturesque description. In its general features it has been not inappropriately compared to the war scenes of the "*Iliad*," and certainly if names like Britnoth and Godric could be substituted for Menelaus and Patroclus it might be almost literally translated into a cento of lines from the great Father of Poetry himself. The death of the Hero is a specially graphic picture, containing at least one supremely beautiful verse. "Stricken by the spear of the enemy, the large hilted sword of Ethelredsthane drops to the earth, he can no longer stand firmly on his feet, he looks to Heaven."

" Might he not on feet long
Fast now stand up :
He to heaven looked :
Thank Thee Nations wielder
For all the good ('wynna' = winsome) things
That I in the world have bode :
Now I own mild Maker,
That I most have need
That Thou to my Ghost
Good speed should grant
That my soul to Thee
Now may make its way
To Thy kingdom Lord of Angels
With peace to journey."

So the heathen warriors slay the chieftain, and the young men that stood by him, Ælfnoth and Walmer, for both fell and sold their lives on the body of their lord. . . . "And Byrtwold spoke: he was an aged vassal: he raised his shield: he brandished his ashen speare: he boldly exhorted the warriors—'Our spirit shall

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be the hardier : our heart shall be the keener : our soul shall be the greater, the more our men are lessened. Here lies our chief all mangled, the brave one in the dust : ever may he lament his shame who thinketh to fly from this play of weapons : old am I in life, yet will I not stir hence : but I think to lie by the side of my lord, by the side of that much loved man."

And so the Abbott of Ely and his monks come to the battle-field and carry off the headless body of the great Ealdorman and bury it with all honour in the Church, and afterwards divide the lands which Britnoth had promised : the Lady Ælflæd, his widow, added to them other lands, Rattendune and Soham and Ditton, and gave them to the Church, and a golden chain, and a tapestry curtain worked with the noble deeds of the hero, which for many a long year remained as one of the most precious treasures of the monastery. On the first page of the old MS. copy of the "Liber Eliensis" in the Cathedral Muniment room, is an entry giving the names of certain benefactors of the Church, including the name of Brithnoth, whose bodies had been removed from the Saxon church to the Norman Minster in 1154 by Bishop Nigel, and whose coffins again had been built up in the north wall of the choir in the reign of Edward III., where they were found on its removal by Essex in 1770. The original entry in the "Liber Eliensis" is as follows:—

"Isti sunt Confessores Christi quorum corpora jacent ex parte aquilonari Chori ecclesie Eliensis in locellis separatim in pariete lapideo.

"Wulstanus Eboracensis Archiepiscopus.

"Osmundas Epūs in Switheda regione.

"Helfwinus Helmanensis Epūs.

"Elfgarus Helmanensis Epūs.

"Ednodus Abbas Ramysiensis, Epūs Lyncolniensis.

"Athelstanus Helmanensis Epūs.

"Brithnodus Dux Northanimbrorum Strenuissimus."

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The following extract from a letter written by Mr Bentham to the Dean of Exeter, and read at the Society of Antiquaries, Feb. 6, 1772, describing the discovery of the bones of these old Saxon worthies immured in the North Choir wall explains their present disposal in Bishop West's Chapel.

"When it became necessary, on account of removing the choir to the east end of the Church, to take down that wall, I thought proper to attend, and also gave notice of it to several gentlemen, who were desirous of being present when the wall was demolished. There were the traces of their several effigies on the wall: [In Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments," page clvi., there is a print of these figures from a drawing made by Mr Tyson (1769), who gave them (1778) to Mr Cole. A copy of this print is also given in Stevenson's supplement to Bentham's "History of Ely," p. 69] and over each of them an inscription of their names. Whether their relics were still to be found was uncertain; but I apprised those who attended on that occasion, May 18, 1769, that if my surmises were well founded no head would be found in the cell which contained the Bones of Brithnoth, Duke of Northumberland. The ground of my expectation in that particular circumstance was the account given by the author of the 'Liber Eliensis,' of the unfortunate battle of Maldon, in Essex, A.D. 991, that the Danes took away with them the head of that brave warrior. The event corresponded to my expectation. The bones were found inclosed, in seven distinct cells or cavities, each twenty-two inches in length, seven broad, and eighteen deep, made within the wall under their painted effigies; but in that under Duke Brithnoth there were no remains of the head, though we searched diligently, and found most, if not all his other bones almost entire, and those remarkable for their length, and proportionally strong; which also agrees with what is recorded by the same historian in regard to the Duke's person, viz., that he was 'viribus

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robustus, corpore maximus.' This will more clearly appear by an exact measurement I have taken, and annexed thereto, of so many of the principal bones of those persons as are remaining entire. From these measurements, os femoris $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tibia $16\frac{3}{4}$, os humeri $14\frac{1}{4}$, ulna $11\frac{1}{8}$, clavicula $6\frac{1}{2}$, it was estimated by Dr Hunter that the Duke must have been 6 foot 9 inches in stature. It was observed that the collar bone had been nearly cut through, as by a battle axe or two-handed sword.

The remains of these seven worthies are now deposited in a void space, within an arch, on the south side of Bishop West's Chapel (wherein was formerly his effigies) and are inclosed in separate cells, and in the same order as we found them; and in the front of them is placed a row of small Gothic niches of stone corresponding with the cells, which are severally inscribed with the name and date of the death of each person whose bones it contains; and in the upper part over the niches is the inscription on the page annexed."

And of that inscription it is only necessary here to quote one word—"REQUIESCANT!"

24. "Lib. Eliens.," ii. 79.

25. "Lib. Eliens.," ii. 91, 92.

"Jamque sublimatus in regno, beneficiorum, quæ puer in Ely habuerat, nequaquam est oblitus: digna enim recompensare præmia studuit. Illuc enim delatus, in cunabulis a patre rege et matre regina super sanctum altare oblatus fuerat, palla involutus orbiculata, brevibus circulis non plene viridi coloris; adhuc ibi ostenditur, et sicut seniores ecclesiæ, qui videre et interfuere, narrare consueverant, cum pueris in claustro illic diu alitus est, psalmos et ymnos Dominicos cum illis didicit. Hujus quoque largitas supra omnium præcedentium regum munificentiam Elyensi se infudit ecclesiæ, dans ei universa quæ in subjecto continentur privilegio."

26. Freeman's "History of the Norman Conquest," iv. 462-485,

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and for the "Legend of Hereward" his Appendix to same volume, pp. 826-833.

27. "Lib. Eliens.," ii. 118.

28. "Lib. Eliens.," ii. 146.

29. Prior Godfrey ("Satirical Poets," ii. 153), cf. also Freeman's "Norman Conquest" Appendix, vol. iv. 833, for the dates of succession of the Norman Abbots. He gives excellent reasons why the order should stand thus:—

Thurstan	.	.	.	.	.	1066-1073
Theodwin	.	.	.	.	.	1073-1075
Administration of Godfrey	.	.	.	.	.	1075-1082
Simeon	.	.	.	.	.	1082-1094

31. See the historical introduction by Professor Freeman to "the Cathedral Cities of Ely and Norwich," drawn and etched by R. Farren and published by Macmillan & Bowes, Cambridge, 1883, page 11. A very excellent comparative estimate of the architectural characteristics of the two cathedrals.

32. Brit. Mus., Tib. A. vi. pp. 246-248, and cf. also Stewart's Analysis of Sacrist Rolls relating to expenditure on Presbytery in his "Architectural History of Ely Cathedral," p. 71.

33. For all details as to building of Octagon, see Lecture II. on "Alan de Walsingham."

34. "Historical Memorials of Canterbury," by A. P. Stanley. Third edition, page 241.

35. The two saints on the reverse of Hugo de Nothwold's seal are S. Edmund and S. Etheldreda, and the Legend is—

"Me juvet Edmundus
Eldrede sim prece mundus."

On Hugo de Balsham's seal the two saints are S. Peter and S. Etheldreda, and the Legend is—

"Me servet Petrus
Eldrede sim prece salvus."



SEALS OF HUGO DE NORTHWOLD



AND HUGO DE BALSHAM



THE PRIOR'S DOOR WITH BEDESMAN

Lecture II

Alan de Walsingham

“Flos Operatorum.”

SOME of you will remember that Mr Ruskin, in his chapter on the “Lamp of Sacrifice,” in his “Seven Lamps of Architecture,” speaking of the great cathedrals of the past as the best witnesses that remain to us of the faith and fear of nations, has said—“All else for which these builders sacrificed has passed away — all their living interests and aims and achievements. We know not for what they laboured, and we see no evidence of their reward. Victory, wealth, authority, happiness—all have departed, though bought by many a bitter sacrifice. But of them and of their life, and of their toil upon the earth, one reward, one evidence is left to us in those grey heaps of deep-wrought stone. They have taken with them to the grave their powers, their honours, and their errors, but they have left us their adoration.” It is of one such man that I am to speak to you to-night, for I have undertaken to tell you something of Alan de Walsingham, that greatest of the English Cathedral builders of the fourteenth century, who by his bold and original genius, gave to Ely Minster the special

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constructive feature of the Gothic Dome and Lantern,—the unique glory of S. Awdrey's Crown,—which makes the great Minster of the Fens, in the stateliness and variety of its outline, so utterly unlike any other Church in England or indeed in Christendom.

Born in the last decade of the thirteenth century, Alan was the product of an age of great men and great events. Somewhere about the date of his birth, Roger Bacon, the first founder of the school of modern experimental science, died. In 1314, the first year in which Alan's name appears among the list of Ely monks,¹ Robert Bruce had broken the flower of the English chivalry at Bannockburn, and taught England the lesson which thirty years later she taught the world at Cressy. In 1321, the year before Alan was elected Sacrist of the Convent and laid the foundation of the Lady Chapel, that stately shrine of so much that is characteristic of the imaginative life and poetry of the Middle Age, the first of Christian Poets, first in point of time, first in point of greatness,—Dante,—died. Thirteen years later, in 1334, when Alan's work was nearing completion and the great vault was being thrown across the Octagon at Ely, Giotto was dreaming at Florence in all arts and laying the foundation-stone of his marvellous Bell Tower. In 1341, the year that sacrist Alan became Prior of his monastery, Geoffrey Chaucer, the Father of English poetry, the healthiest, and therefore, perhaps, the most original of English singers, was born, and Petrarch was crowned with laurel at Rome as the first scholar and humanist of his age.

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That Alan saw in the flesh any one of these great men, unless indeed it may have been Robert Bruce on pilgrimage to Walsingham, is more than doubtful, but none the less was he the child of the same influences as they. The very spirit of the age, a larger, happier, more benign spirit, as it would seem, than that of any preceding century, in which all the arts and applied sciences, painting, sculpture, geometry, engineering, anatomy, botany, even poetry and music, and all the crafts of mason, carpenter, carver, goldsmith, jeweller, blacksmith, combined to produce a race of artist workmen, as remarkable for their admirable tradition as for their individual grace and freedom, seems to have presided at the cradle of this consummate worker, this English architect of the fourteenth century — "*Flos operatorum . . . vir venerabilis et artificiosus Frater.*"

Of Alan's life, like Shakespeare's in a later age, we know very little. His birthplace I suppose we may rightly presume from his designation to have been at Walsingham in Norfolk. And as an element in that environment which went to fashion his after life, that fact may well go for something, perhaps for much. For early in the twelfth century there had been founded at Walsingham a Priory of Austin Canons and a chapel dedicated "to God and S. Mary." The image of the Virgin in that chapel had from the first drawn to it an unceasing stream of pilgrims. A path, still traceable in places, leads by Cambridge and Ely, and Brandon and Fakenham, to her shrine, and is known by the name of "Walsingham Green Way," or the Palmer's Way, and because to the poetic eye of the

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pilgrim the Milky Way in the heavens seemed to canopy this path and point towards the shrine that, too, was called "the Walsingham Way." How it came about that Alan turned his back on "Our Lady of Walsingham" and the Priory of Austin Canons, and followed the returning steps of the pilgrims along "the Walsingham Way" to Ely, I cannot say. I only know that it was a good star that drew his steps to the Shrine of S. Awdrey and the great Convent of Benedictine monks that had grown up around it.

The Ely Monastery—founded by Queen Etheldreda in the year 672,—and reorganised under the influence of the monastic revival of the tenth century by S. Æthelwold, the "Muneca Faeder," as the English Chronicle calls him, was now in its fourth century of full Benedictine rule. The administrative completeness of the community life at Ely, when Alan joined the Convent, its strong organisation, its careful subdivision of responsibility, its precision of business habit, and its regular custom of audited yearly accounts, still may be traced by the careful student of the fairly complete series of Obedientiary Rolls of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries still in the possession of the Dean and Chapter, stored in the Muniment Room of the Cathedral.

I think perhaps* it may be of interest to you, and serve at least to give reality to the daily routine of the Convent life, if I delay for a moment in the course of Alan's story to give you one or two details from those Rolls, which have not hitherto been published, taken from the records of two of the most important officers of the monastery, the Came-

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rarius and the Cellerarius. The Camerarius, or Chamberlain, in addition to an annual grant from the Convent treasury, had his own separate estate and revenue from which to provide for what may be called the more domestic wants of the Monastery.

Let me take the first Roll on the list. It is that for the 8 Edward III. (1334). We shall be anticipating events a little in the life of Alan, for at that date he had already been Sacrist of the Monastery thirteen years. However, here are some details from the balance-sheet of his friend, Richard of Spalding, the Chamberlain of that year.³ His total receipts were £107, 4s. 9½d., of which £62, 13s. 4d. came from the Convent Treasury. On the debit side of the balance-sheet the largest expenditure is for the clothing of the monks, "vestura conventus." It amounts to £87, 18s. 11½d., not a very extravagant amount, as it would seem, for the annual tailor's bill of some forty or fifty people. Forty-six I gather to have been the full number of monks on the Convent Roll this year, judging at least by the following items, which go to make up the total of £87 for clothing.

46	capucia (cowls or hoods)	£2	6	0
46	pellicia (fur coats)	7	8	8
45	coopertaria (counterpanes)	10	10	0
45	Tunica yemales	10	18	2
45	„ æstivales	10	0	0
53	Staminea (woollen shirts)	5	6	0
46	Stragulæ (striped or corded cloth)	4	12	0
46	Wilkoks	1	3	6

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46 Robæ (monks' frocks)	£15	12	0
Linea tela pro femoralibus	7	11	8
Bottæ (boots)—winter and	2	13	7
summer	3	1	4

Then there follows a payment of £3, 13s. od. for "Caligæ et pedulæ yemales," as to the exact signification of which commentators appear to differ very greatly. Smaragdus says—"slippers and socks," Bernardus Casinensis says—"buskins and gaiters," Bernardus Nicolaus de Fractura says—"shoes and stockings." In such a conflict of authority, however, I agree with the modern commentator, Mr I. Gregory Smith, that "on a point so remote from the experience of modern times it is hopeless to decide," and I conclude that at anyrate "Caligæ et Pedulæ" were something to keep the legs of the Monks warm. For evidently—and in winter time at Ely with a north-east wind blowing across the Fens I sympathise with them sincerely—warmth was with the Monks a thing much to be desired, and apparently sought after. For I notice, in addition to the 46 "stragulæ" which appear in this list, and which probably mean bedclothes, that in the Camerarius Roll of the following year there is an entry of £4, 9s. 3d. for 149 yards of blanket, an allowance that is to say of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards apiece for each monk. At the same time, notwithstanding the very precise decrees which were laid down by Archbishop Lanfranc, for the discipline of Benedictine houses, by which the Chamberlain was required to change the hay in the Monks' pallets once a year, and once a year to clean out the Dormitory, the



IN S. AISLE OF NAVE LOOKING TO N. TRANSEPT

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only item of expenditure that I can find in this Roll under this head is 1s. 3½d. for the dortor and 5s. for towels in the cloister lavatory. And the 1s. 3½d. has not a very comforting sound, for it was expended for "nails and boards in the beds of the novices"—"In lectis pro noviciis cum clavis et bordis."

Of other items in the Chamberlain's balance-sheet, apart from the wage-list of the convent servants under the Chamberlain's authority—the allutor, the sutor, the cissor, the balneator, the barbitonsor (6s. 8d. a year was what the barbitonsor was paid for keeping the monks' chins and tonsures clean)—there are two items that have perhaps a special interest. There is a payment of £1, 0s. 5d. "pro O et olla" and there is a payment of £1, 16s. 0d. "pro Mimuciones."⁴

The first entry, "pro O et olla," is very perplexing. It is evidently a slang term of the Monastery. I am inclined to think that there may be perhaps an explanation of its meaning in the following extract from the Rites of Durham published by the Surtees Society (page 75):—"Also within this house (*i.e.*, the Common House, or Monks' parlour, sometimes called the Calefactorium) did the Master thereof keep his "O Sapeptia," once in the year, viz., betwixt Martinmes and Christimmes, a solemn banquet that the Pryor and Convent did use at that time of the year only, when their banquet was of figs and raysyns, aile and cakes, and thereof no superfluitie or excess, but a scholastical and moderate congratulation amongst themselves."

Now, on the strength of this quotation from the Durham

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Rites, I would venture to suggest that these periodical payments made by the Cellarer "pro O et olla,"—"for Prayers and Pot,"—as recorded in the monastery slang of the Ely Rolls, were in all probability payments made for the annual feasts, audit dinners shall I call them, given in the Common Room by the chief officers of the Convent to the brothers or even servants specially associated with them in their several departments. These dinners would naturally be preceded by a short Thanksgiving Service, of which the chief part might well consist of one of the seven great advent Antiphons, which all begin with the exclamation "O!" and could quite appropriately be chosen in relation to the special work or function of the particular officer. Thus the Lord Prior might naturally sing the hymn, "O adonai et dux Domus Israel;" the Sacrist the "O sapientia quæ ex ore altissimi;" the Cellarer, who bore the keys, the "O Clavis David et sceptrum Domus;" while even the Gardener, perhaps, might sing his "O Radix Jesse qui stas in signum." Anyhow, I offer the suggestion for what it may be worth.

The second item is the "Minutio sanguinis," or lessening of blood, blood-letting, and was the name given to that regular custom of the Monastery, by which, in accordance with the common Pharmacy of the age, each monk retired for three days in every six weeks into the Infirmary to be bled. So important a feature, indeed, was this custom in the domestic life of the convent, that the "Minutio"—by which all the Monks of the Monastery, in weekly batches of eight or nine, under the headship of one or other of

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the six great officers, the Prior, the Subprior, the Sacrist, the Precentor, the Cellarer, the Camerarius, went into weekly retreat into the Infirmary, three days for blood-letting, three days for recovery—actually gave its name to the various weeks of the domestic Calendar, so that it would appear from the Rolls—and you will see this especially when I come to speak, as I shall do in a moment, of the Rolls of the Cellarer—that where we should speak of the first, or the second, or the third week of, say, December, they would speak of the Advent Minutio of the Prior, or of the Sacrist, or of the Cellarer.

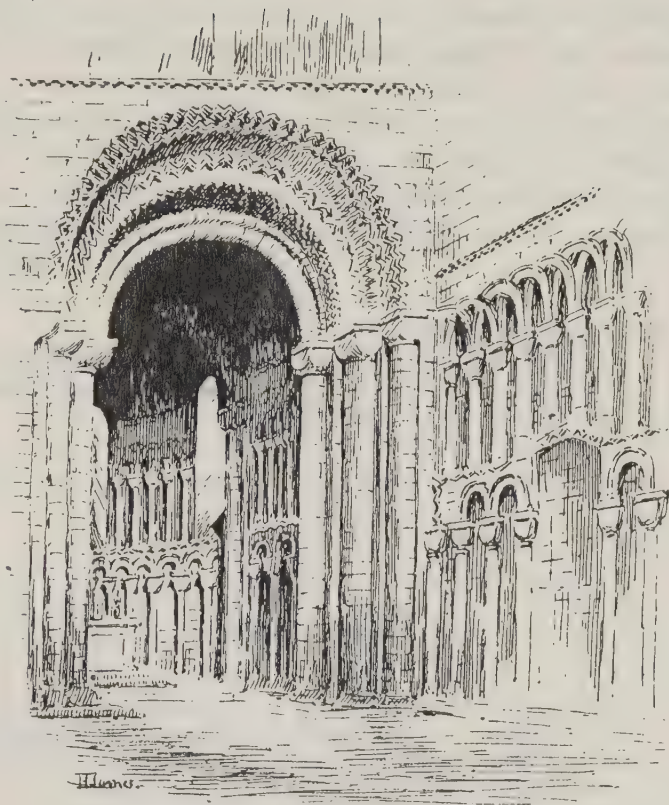
Let me return for a moment or two to the Rolls of this last officer.

The Cellarer is naturally an officer of much importance in the Monastery, having in his care the general arrangement and management of the domestic affairs of the Convent. So much of the comfort of the Brethren depended on him that he is spoken of as “pater totius congregationis”—“a father to the whole community looking after and tending the sick and the hale.” He is described as the Prior’s right hand, and held, I suppose, very much the same position as the senior Bursar does now in modern college life. By the Benedictine Decrees (cap. viii.) it was his duty to “care for all things necessary for the brethren in bread and drink, and divers kinds of food,” and to provide all the vessels required for the cellar, kitchen, and refectory. In the Benedictine customs of Abingdon, we are told that he must be “humble of

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heart, benign in spirit, teeming with loving-kindness, sparing to himself, bounteous to others, he must be the solace of the sad, refuge of the sick, sober, cautious, the shield of the needy, the father and patron of all the congregation of this House."

At Ely we are specially fortunate in having a very complete set of Cellerarius Rolls, ranging from the 9th of Edward III. to the 12th of Richard II. The Roll of 8 Edward III. is perhaps the most curious Roll in the Ely collection. It is more than 10 feet long, and gives us with extraordinary minuteness the weekly bills for a whole year of all that was prepared in the kitchen or consumed in the Refectory of the Monastery, with particulars of the cost of every article of food provided; the rise and fall of the price of butter and eggs and milk at different seasons of the year; and the rigour with which the fast days, especially the season of Lent, were observed. I have had by me, as I wrote this Lecture, a very careful abstract made with infinite pains by our Precentor of the Diet Rolls of the Cellarer for the whole of the year dating from Michaelmas 1335 to Michaelmas 1336. Now, I am lecturing to-night, on Monday, August 10th, 1896, let us turn to our Cellerarius Roll, and see if we can, how the monks of Ely fared on August 10th, 1336, just 560 years ago. The 10th of August in that year was a Friday. It was in the seventh week of the summer quarter. It was the Minutio of the Sacrist. Alan de Walsingham, therefore, who had been elected Sacrist in 1321, was on this day 560 years ago convalescing in the Infirmary after the



S. CATHARINE'S CHAPEL IN GALILEE TRANSEPT

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monthly blood-letting. I see on the Sunday previous, August 5th, the Camerarius had entered in his Rolls the sum of 3s. for the expenses of the Sacrist's Minutio; that is to say, if there were five of the brothers with Alan in the Infirmary, they would each receive at the rate of 2d. a-day to be paid to the Infirmarius for their table expenses during the days of blood-letting and recovery. But if the fare of the Minuti was frugal in the Infirmary their brothers in the Refectory were well cared for by "the Father of the Convent." Here are the items in the Diet Roll of the week :—

1336. Sunday, August 5. Dominica 7, Minutio Sacristæ.	Minutio	ova, eggs, 2450,	galli, poultry, 8 pullets,	columba, pigeons, 6,	sagimen, dripping or lard, 3 bags, 2s. 9d.	Total
	3s.	16s. 6½d.	8d.	2½d.		£1 8 10¾
Monday, Aug. 6,	pottage,		mori, cod,			
	12½d.		9d.	... ..		0 1 9½
Tuesday, Aug. 7,	caro, fresh meat,		mult', mutton,			
	2s. 5½d.		10¼d.	... ..		0 3 3¾
Wednesday, Aug. 8, (Fast day)	pisc' rec', fresh fish,		allec all', white herring,		mori, cod,	
	6s. 6d.		2d.		10d.	0 7 6
Thursday, Aug. 9.	caro,		white herring,		mori, cod,	
	2s. 8d.				10d.	0 3 6

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Friday, Aug. 10, (our day),		white herring, 9d.	mori, cod, 9d.	} 0 8 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Saturday, Aug. 11,		white herring, 2d.	mori, cod, 10d.	
	cenap', 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	sagimen, dripping or lard or suet, 20d.	milk, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lib., 3s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK, £2 14 6 $\frac{1}{4}$

You will notice that this diet Roll tells us nothing of the bread, vegetables, and beer, which were provided independently by the Granatarius, just as in the present day in the economy of our Colleges the Buttery bill and the Kitchen bill are always rendered as separate accounts.

It is difficult to estimate the exact quantities of either beer or bread consumed in the Monastery. They are always entered wholesale, according to the amount consumed in quarters of malt or corn. A thousand quarters of malt appears to have been about an average amount for a year's brewing.

Among the Lambeth MSS. relating to Ely there is a "Manual," entitled "de Signis," which is in fact a description of the various gestures used by the Ely monks to signify their several wants at the Refectory table, where of course they were under a strict vow of silence. From

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this list of the signs employed for the different articles of food and drink, we gain many interesting particulars as to the daily bill of fare in the Monastery. Thus we find five or six different kinds of bread enumerated: "panes monachales," "panes militares pro mandatis," "panes blakwyte," "panes prykket," and a coarser variety called "trencho." Similarly with the beer there was a better kind, a sound ale, "bona servisia," a "mediocris servisia," or small beer, and a less potent sort, called "debilis servisia," and finally, a drink called "skegman," which perhaps corresponded in quality with the "trencho" bread. To what extent wine was consumed in the Convent Refectory, either on Feast days or ordinary days, does not appear in the Cellarer's Rolls. We know, however, that the Prior and Sacrist had their private wine cellars, and it is plain from the Lambeth Sign Book that each Monk could make his sign for his tumbler and wine-glass as well as for wine, but whether he got any of the Malvesy or the red wine, which from a later Roll we find the Sacrist was accustomed to get from a certain wine merchant in London named Masga de Fynkel, or whether he had to be satisfied with, I should imagine, the somewhat sourer produce of the Monastery vineyards at Ely and Wentworth and Holborn, it is impossible to say. But certainly a careful study of these Diet Rolls from year to year does not lead one to think that the daily fare of the Monks was other than moderate and well regulated. It was somewhat monotonous, no doubt, rough and coarse as we should think it, yet apparently of quite sufficient variety for health, and

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certainly there is no evidence anywhere in these Rolls of excessive luxury.

It is true that Fuller, in his Church History of Britain,⁵ says, "of all Abbeys in England, Ely bare away the bell for bountiful feast-making, the vicinity of the Fens affording them plenty of flesh, fish, and fowl at low rates. Hereupon the poet—

"Prævisis aliis, Eliensia festa videre
Est, quasi provisa nocte, videre diem."

"See after other, Ely Feasts
And surely thou wilt say,
That having seen the night before
Thou seest now the day."

But this, I think it should be remembered, is evidence of a much later date, and was probably true in any age rather of the generous hospitality shown to strangers in the Convent Guest Hall—and I trust that that may ever remain a characteristic of that house at Ely—than to the plain living and, let us hope, high thinking in the Fraternity House of the Monks. There were always evils doubtless attendant upon this Monastic hospitality, and to our modern economic conscience, I am sure the Convent housekeeping must seem to have brought journeywork too often to no other trade but pauperism and vagrant beggary, yet after all, perhaps, for our present purpose at anyrate, we may dismiss the matter in the quaint words of Fuller himself, "All this may be confessed yet by their hospitality, many an honest and hungry soul had his bowels refreshed which otherwise

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would have been starved, and better it is two drones should be fed than one bee famished."⁶

But I must not linger any longer over this aspect of life in the Ely Monastery, fascinating at least to myself as the study may be.

Let us turn from the Rolls of the Camerarius and the Cellarer to those of the Sacrist. For to this important office in the polity of the convent Alan de Walsingham was elected in 1321. On the 20th of May in that year John of Crauden had been appointed Prior of the Monastery, and on the same day Alan had become sub-prior. This office, however, he held for only a few months, and then he became Sacrist, a post which he held until the death of his friend Prior Crauden in 1341 called him to take up the highest office in the Monastery. It was, however, during those twenty years as Sacrist that all the great architectural works which are so inseparably associated with his name at Ely were completed.

The first of these great works was the Lady Chapel, one of the finest specimens of decorated architecture in the Kingdom. Its position, running parallel with the Choir of the Cathedral and corner to corner with the North transept, may possibly have been suggested by the somewhat similar position of the now destroyed Lady Chapel at Peterborough. But it is still more probable, I think, that the unusual site was chosen out of respect for the great beauty of the East front of Northwold's Presbytery, and from a desire to do sufficient honour to the object of the Lady Chapel, while at the same time not interfering

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with the famous Shrines of S. Awdrey and her sister Abbesses in the Retro Choir.

The first stone of the Chapel was laid on the Feast of the Annunciation,⁷ 1321, and Alan, if he thought at all of future artistic fame, might well have been satisfied to leave the design of this magnificent building as a witness to posterity of his genius, little thinking that the following year would give him so much more notable an opportunity. The length of the Chapel is 100 feet, while the span of the stone vaulting of delicate interlacing ribs at a height of 60 feet from the ground is no less than 46 feet wide. The interior is characteristic of the great window period, and is of the type that culminated nearly two centuries later in Kings' College Chapel in Cambridge. The great windows, however, of Alan's work—there are five on either side—are remarkable for the freedom and grace and beauty of the tracery, which has naturally none of the stiffness of the later perpendicular period. The great East and West windows are much heavier in design, and are in reality insertions of a somewhat later date. It is evident from indications supplied by the masonry of the central light of the East window,⁸ the mullions of which are of unusual solidity, that the Reredos and East window were originally combined in some structure, of which the chief object was the large figure of S. Mary, often mentioned in the Rolls of the Custos Capellæ, and which must have occupied a canopied niche, blocking up the whole of the middle light from sill to transom.

The interior walls between the windows are occupied



The
Assumption of
the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Lady Chapel

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by rich tabernacle work, while beneath the windows, round the whole circuit of the walls, runs an arcade of elaborate canopied niches, of singular beauty of form, covered with the richest profusion of sculptured flower work and dainty leafage. In the spandrels above each canopy is carved, in low relief, incidents in the scriptural and legendary history of the blessed Virgin. Dr Montague James, in the remarkable book which he has lately published on the Iconography of the Lady Chapel, has by his almost exhaustive knowledge of contemporary documents, and of the written sources of the mediæval "folk-tales" and Legends of the Virgin, succeeded in identifying with certainty a very considerable number of these sculptured subjects, and has given reasonable conjectures as to many more.⁹ The exquisite delicacy and grace of line of the figures of this sculpture still remains, in spite of the havoc worked by the misguided activity of reforming zeal—an ideal of art and loveliness, which our best modern sculptors will probably for many a long day strive in vain to reach. There is no place probably in England where an Architect, who is also an Artist, may better study what was meant, in the very greatest days of English architecture, by a noble idea perfectly expressed in stone and exquisitely adorned. It is a little difficult perhaps for us in these days, with our nineteenth-century prose practicality, and puritan common-sense, to say nothing of our recollection of the moral degradation, caused by a popular superstition in which the daily repetition of the

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Office of the Virgin, or even the momentary exclamation of an "Ave Maria!" was not infrequently considered to atone for serious crime, or at least to save the devotee from its consequent earthly punishment, to understand how the genius of Alan de Walsingham should have found its inspiration in such apparently puerile sources. But do not let us forget that we are speaking of the age of Dante and Chaucer, an age in which the imaginative life of the Crusades, when Catholic purity in the best natures was united to the tenderness of chivalry, still cast its glamour over poetic minds, and we may come perhaps to believe that to the artist soul of Alan de Walsingham, the Idealisation of Woman, the worship of the Virgin Mother, set forth in his magnificent stone-poem of the Lady Chapel, as in Dante's "Paradiso," could only tend, in those who felt its beauty, to humanise the thought of rude and ungallant hearts, and profoundly to modify the unpolished manners of the time—

"For in reverence of the Heavene's Queene,
They came to worship alle women that bene."

It is said that Welby Pugin once estimated the probable cost of the restoration of this interior at £100,000. But as I have already ventured to say in the appeal which the Dean and Chapter have lately issued for funds to repair the exterior of this Chapel, even the provision of that large sum would not make the work possible. There does not exist, probably, in Europe to-day an artist in stone who could be trusted to repair this defaced sculpture of Alan



Birth &
Presentation in the
Temple of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Lady Chapel

Hance

Alan de Walsingham

de Walsingham's craftsmen. For such an artist we must wait for an age, when once more Art has become, as John Ruskin and William Morris have taught us, not only "the expression of a workman's joy in his work," but also the expression of a man of genius who pours into his Art, life, conscience, labour as a sacrificial act of devotion "to the King in his beauty." There remains for us the humbler task, and yet the honourable duty, of preserving the fabric of this building, the casket in which is enshrined for the England of to-day so much that is characteristic of the worship and the service, and the noble work of our fathers in the old time that is past.

But to return to the work of the Sacrist. On the 22nd of February 1322 occurred a catastrophe which, through the supreme constructive genius of Alan de Walsingham, became a blessing in disguise, and led to that marvellous dome which gives to the interior of Ely Minster its unique beauty and grace, queenly beyond words, and to the exterior that peculiar coronal outline—I venture myself always to speak of it architecturally as the Crown of S. Awdrey—a feature which has no fellow in any of the Churches of England, or indeed of Christendom.

On the vigil of the Feast of S. Eormenilda, as the monks were returning from the Church to their dormitory, the old Norman central tower, erected by Abbot Simeon just after the Conquest, fell with a crash—"with such a shock," says the old Chronicler,¹⁰ "and so great a tumult, that it was thought an earthquake had taken place." As an especial proof of the divine protection, the Ely

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Chronicler remarks that not only was no one injured by the fall, but that the Shrines of the three sainted Abbesses Etheldreda, Sexburga, and Withburga, which stood at the eastern end of the Norman choir, just within the new Presbytery built by Northwold in the previous century, escaped without any injury. Alan himself is represented, in the old records, as being at first perplexed and overwhelmed at the ruinous condition to which the central crossing of the great Church had been reduced.

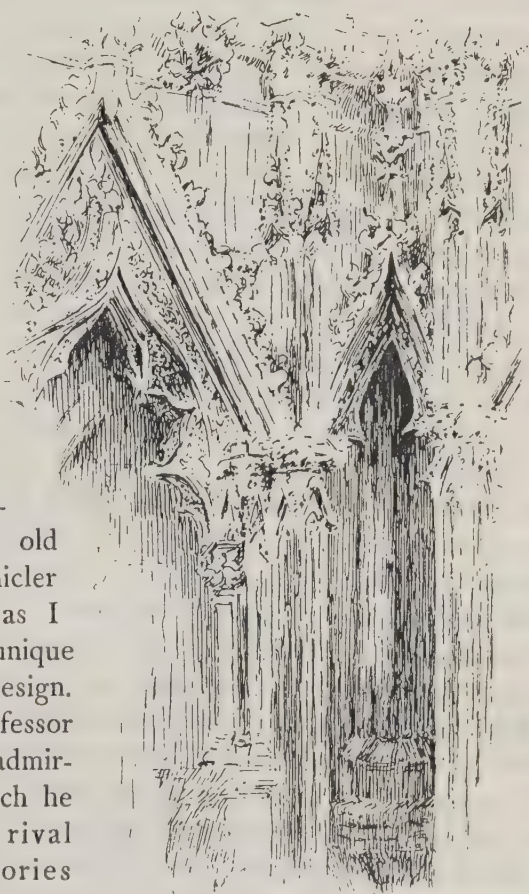
"The aforesaid Sacrist Alan"—writes the Chronicler—"grieving vehemently and overcome with sorrow at an event so disastrous and lamentable, for a moment knew not which way to turn himself, or what to do for the reparation of such a ruin. But taking courage, and putting his whole trust in the help of God and His most Holy Mother Mary, and also in the merits of the Holy Virgin Etheldreda, set his hand to the work, and first with much labour and expense having removed from within the Church the stones and timber which had fallen in the ruin, and also a great quantity of dust and rubbish having cleared away with all possible speed, at the place in which he was about to construct the new Campanile, he by architectural skill measured out eight positions in which the eight stone columns were to stand supporting the whole building, and beneath which the Choir with its stalls was afterwards to be placed, and caused them to be dug out and examined, until he had found the solid rock upon which the foundations of his work might be securely fixed. These aforesaid eight places, having been most carefully examined, and

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with stones and sand most firmly consolidated, he then at last laid the foundation of the eight columns and the superincumbent stone work, which, indeed, as far as the upper cornice, was brought to a conclusion after six years, in the year of our Lord 1328."

This simple description of the old monkish Chronicler records a work, as I have said, of unique originality in its design.

The late Professor Freeman, in an admirable paper in which he compares the rival Architectural glories of Ely, Peterborough and Norwich, thus speaks of the original constructive genius of Alan.¹¹



N.E. ANGLE OF LADY CHAPEL

Alan de Walsingham

"His powers did not show themselves like those of William of Saint-Calais and of St Hugh—or of the architects employed by them, as the case may be—in developing new forms of architectural style, but like the nameless creator of the West front of Peterborough, in devising buildings of wholly new shapes, in translating from other architectural languages into his own. As there arose at Peterborough a translation of the Portico of old Greece into Northern language, so there arose at Ely a like translation of the Cupolas of Italy or Byzantium. But the translation at Ely is even freer than the translation at Peterborough. The Front of Peterborough may fairly be called a Gothic portico: the Octagon at Ely can hardly be called a Gothic cupola, though we may be pretty certain that thoughts of the cupola were in the mind of Alan de Walsingham. His main object was to build up something that should be less likely to fall than the traditional central tower borne up on four open arches. But the cupolas of the Byzantine, Sicilian and Aquitanian churches rest on four arches, no less than the square towers of Normandy and England, and in the Churches of Sicily and Aquitaine they rest on pointed arches. In San Sophia itself the cupola rests on four piers, just as much as in the smallest English or Norman church that has a central tower. It is of no greater span than the four limbs give it: it is wide because they are wide. The peculiarity at Ely is that the central space is far wider than any of the four limbs. It does not, like other lanterns and cupolas, seem designed as a crown for them, and as nothing else. It seems like a



THE OCTAGON AND LANTERN FROM NORTH-WEST

Alan de Walsingham

building which might have stood apart, like a round or polygonal Church which has found its way into the middle of a cross Church of the usual type, or more truly, which has had the four limbs of such a Church attached to it in some strange way. Looking across the octagon of Ely, the four great limbs, which from any other point of view seem so vast, sink into mere adjuncts to the great central space. To provide against all mischances, the new work was grounded on eight piers instead of four, and the local historian (as you have heard) enlarges on the care which Alan the Sacrist took to find safe places for their foundations. But if the supports were stronger than of old, the weight which they had to bear was less. No one could expect that this gigantic octagon could be carried up as a tower to the usual height of a tower; but it might conceivably have grown into a true cupola, the forerunner of Brunelleschi's creation at Florence. And we may be sure that the genius of Alan de Walsingham would have as far outshone the work of Brunelleschi as the genius of Hugh of Northwold or his architect outshone the work of Arnolfo. No part of the Church of Ely, no part of any genuine English, Norman, French, or German church, looks as the dome of Florence, smaller than it is in reality. Yet lordly beyond words as is the internal view of the lantern of Ely, we are half tempted to complain that its mighty tops do not bear up something greater; all that they ever bore, all that they ever were designed to bear, was a vast louvre of wood. Of wood, too, are the eight half vaults from which the louvre springs. And this woodwork louvre and

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vault, owing to the difficulty of finding timbers of the needful size, is spoken of as a greater work, and one taking a longer time, than the building of the stonework below. The stonework, begun in 1322, took six years, and was finished in 1328; the woodwork, begun at once on the completion of the stonework, took twice the time, and was not finished until 1342, when Alan the Sacrist had become Prior."

You will remember that of the two hundred and eighty-eight Obedientiary Rolls of the Monastery, I said that forty-four were Rolls of the Sacrist. Of these nine are rolls of Alan de Walsingham, ranging from the 16 Edward II. to 13 Edward III.

I have no time left to linger over the details of these Rolls, interesting as they are, and full of the minutest records of the expenditure from year to year on the new Campanile¹²—payments to John Attegrene or to Peter Quadratarius the master mason, to master Thomas the carpenter, and William de Houk, to Simon the glazier's boy, to Johannes Amyot the blacksmith, to master John of Gloucester for casting the six great bells, to John of Burwell, near Newmarket, to whom the special work of carving the figure of Christ in Benediction on the great boss¹³ of the key vault of the Lantern was intrusted and for which he received 2s. and his dinner at the Prior's table, to William Schaub and Walter the painter, to Ralph the gold-beter who made the Prior's florins into gold leaf, payments also for stone and reeds and rushes for mending the roads, stone from the quarries at Barnack for building, worked stone, forme

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pecys, and kings' tables, crestes and parpent assheler, payments for the oak tress, twenty for £9 from Chikisand, and other timber from Barnewell and Stourbridge, and Hilgay and Reach, molds and canvas from Lynn, vermilion, verdigris, whitelead and oil, — full also of evidence of the skill and science with which from time to time the various structural difficulties of the great vaulting was overcome, down to the day, though that I fear was ten years after Alan's death, when in the Sacrist Roll of 48 Edward III. the usual entry "Custos novi operis" was written on the parchment, when it was prepared for the year's accounts, and John of Ely struck his pen through it, having no longer any use for it, because the work was complete.

There is the less need to enter more fully into these most interesting Rolls, because Canon Stewart in his valuable "Architectural History of Ely Cathedral" has quoted very largely from them. To that book I must refer those of you who are in any sense architectural students of Alan de Walsingham's famous structure, and also to an elaborate monograph by Mr Reynolds Rowe of Cambridge, read before the Royal Institute of British Architects, to accompany most careful and accurate working plans and drawings of the Octagon and Lantern which are now deposited in the Cathedral Library.

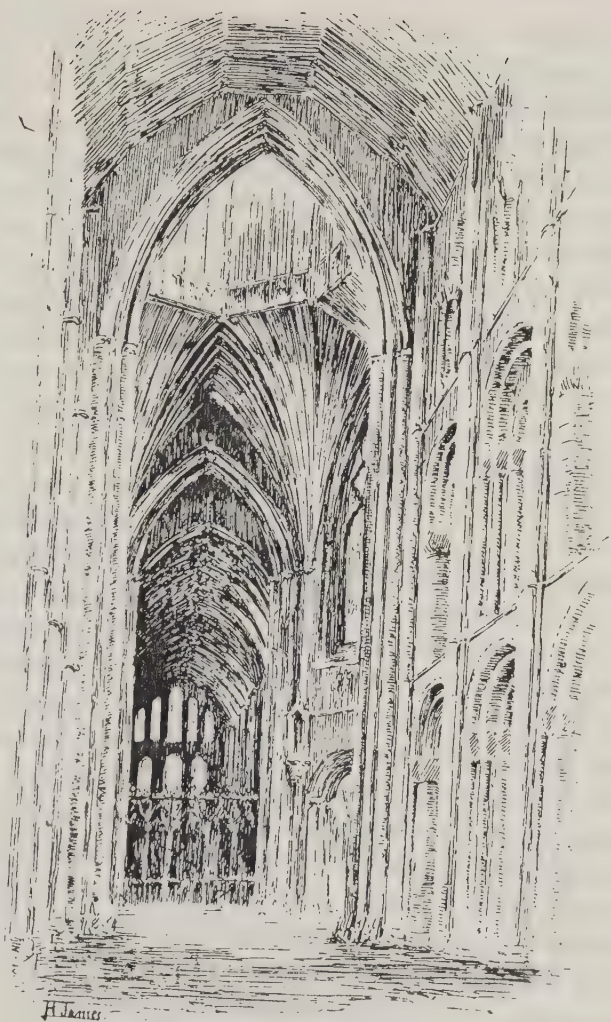
I must find time, however, to say this before I hurry to a conclusion.

Original and marvellous as is the constructive achievement of Alan de Walsingham's Octagon, its grace and

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beauty of form is as remarkable as its conception is fresh and strong.

Nowhere in the vast treasury of mediæval art which has come down to us in those great buildings, which mean perhaps more to Englishmen than to others, because they are so closely intertwined with the life and history of our nation, do I know a shrine of worship so noble, so inspiring, so uplifting as this Ely Octagon. Nowhere else do I know a building in which the characteristics of Power and Beauty are so harmoniously blended into a complete unity of design as in Walsingham's Octagon. Here we seem to have from foundation to summit the organic growth of nature, and with it not only the imaginative grace of varied line and curve, but also the more consummate beauty of perfect symmetry and proportion. Who can stand indeed beneath that noble Dome, and let his eye follow upward step by step its clustered columns, blossoming at the first stage on the level of the minor arches that flank the aisles, into exquisitely flower-shaped corbels, the eight chief Acts of the Foundress-Saint¹⁴ sculptured on each calyx, as it were, of the flower before it breaks into the overhanging canopied niche of strangely original form, thus masking beautifully the further sub-division of the columns as they mount upwards in many smaller shafts and mouldings to the next stage, where at the springing of the great arches of nave and choir they bear gracefully carved floral capitals, which in their turn support the incurving clusters of the ribs that form the great vault itself; at a further stage to be broken



OCTAGON CROSSING FROM NAVE

Alan de Walsingham

once again at half the height of its great sweeping curves, by the octagonal framework that carries the great vertical shaft of the lofty Lantern, whose traceried windows cast their coloured glories on the pavement 150 feet below, —who, I say, gazing up into this marvellous Dome, can fail to feel something of what its creator must have felt, that in this primal building-art of man there is room for the marking of man's relation with the mightiest, as well as the fairest, works of God, something also of the truth that the wealth of this world may be turned from man's pride to God's praise, that the things which are seen may point upward to the things which are not seen, and that the best that earth can yield may be gathered where men come to meet with God and to wait upon His self-revealing.

The remaining incidents of Alan de Walsingham's life must be compressed into a very few sentences. You will remember that I said he had been elected Sacrist of the Monastery in 1321, a position which he held for the next twenty years. During sixteen years of this time John de Hotham had been Bishop, and during the whole of the time John de Crauden, Prior of the Monastery.¹⁵ From both of these men Alan de Walsingham evidently received not only cordial sympathy but most munificent support in the great and costly works with which during their rule he was enriching the Monastery. For Bishop Hotham he designed and built the beautiful decorated arches of the Choir of the richest middle pointed type, but inasmuch as it took the place of the Norman Choir preserving the

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Norman proportions, the whole cost of which, amounting to £2034, 12s. 8½d., was borne by the Bishop, and for him too in all probability he designed the lovely Chapel in Ely Place, Holborn, on the manor secured by the Bishop for the Monastery. For Prior Crauden he built the still lovelier Chapel attached to the Priory,¹⁶—"novam capellam mirandi decoris," in use to this day for the Mattins and Evensong of our Kings' School, and the "Fair Hall" opposite the Chapel, built possibly to entertain Queen Philippa, whose friend Prior Crauden¹⁷ was, and to whom she gave on her visit to Ely with the King, her jewelled robes of state, powdered with golden squirrels which she had worn at her Thanksgiving after the birth of the Black Prince, "and which," says the Chronicler, "three of them were made by the Prior into three copes, embroidered with the arms of S. Etheldreda, and two of them afterwards into a cowl and six tunics by his successor, Prior Alan de Walsingham, 'qui honestissimè fecit apparari.'"¹⁸ For Prior Crauden also Alan built in connection with the Prior's Chapel "a study for books," a portion of which, with its ancient fireplace, still exists in the house which was originally "the olde Hall" of the Prior's Palace, a portion of the Monastery built by Abbot Simeon in the Norman times, and now occupied by the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge, our Cathedral Treasurer. The great Guest Hall of the monastery, now the Deanery, was also at this time either rebuilt by Alan or very considerably restored, and "Gent Hall" an intrusion on the aisle of the Infirmary. Indeed there are few remains of the old

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Monastery which do not show traces of the work of the masons of Alan de Walsingham and Prior Crauden.

On the 13th January 1336 Bishop John de Hotham died, and was buried in the centre of that part of the Presbytery which he himself had caused to be erected. The exact place of his tomb he had chosen "quasi spiritu prophético." "For on a certain day," so says the chronicler,¹⁸ "when John the Bishop had been celebrating Mass in the Church at the High Altar, after Mass, returning to lay aside his pontifical robes in the vestry, it happened that his pastoral staff broke at the very place where now he is buried. Whereupon, turning to the Prior who followed him, he said, 'Prior, here shall be the place of my burial, and thou also here at my feet afterwards shall be buried.'"

The splendid monument, said to have been the largest and most sumptuous in the Cathedral, which was erected on this spot in the Bishop's honour, was also Alan's work. It consisted of an altar tomb, adorned with alternate panels of single and treble niches, the lesser of which were filled with statues, and the larger with paintings, representing the history of the Creation and the Fall of Man. Upon it was a figure of the Bishop, in alabaster, and above it a stately canopy and watching loft, surmounted by an elaborate candelabra of seven branches. The tomb was placed immediately behind the Choir altar, and the overarching canopy probably served in a somewhat similar fashion to that of S. Frideswide at Oxford, as a watching loft for the white marble shrine of S. Awdrey, whose silver reliquary, blazing with many jewels, crystal, and pearl, and onyx,

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and beryl, and amethyst, and chalcedony, flashed out beyond in Northwold's Presbytery.

The tomb, denuded of its superincumbent figure, and with the sculptured work of its niches all defaced, now stands between the two pillars of the Presbytery on the south side of the High Altar. The watching-loft—the so-called S. Awdrey's shrine of modern times—also stands on the North side of the Presbytery. And now, in the vacant space where once stood this sumptuous tomb, on the floor of the present Choir, the resting-place of the two men is marked by two massive slabs of grey marble, the Bishop, with the Prior at his feet.¹⁸ On the brass of the Bishop's slab are simply two shields, containing his own arms and that of his See, and an inscription, copied from that of Elizabeth's time, which gave the wrong date of his death, and claimed for him the building of the Lantern. On John de Crauden's slab the ancient matrix has been filled with a beautifully designed floriated cross in brass, at the foot of which is represented the kneeling figure of the Prior, and round the edge, on a continuous scroll, the ancient epitaph as given by the monkish chronicler:—

“ Hanc aram decorat de Craudene tumba Johannis
Qui fuit hic Prior, ad bona pluria pluribus annis,
Presulis hunc sedes elegit pontificari
Presulis ante pedes ideo meruit tumulari.”

In 1341, four years after the Bishop, Prior Crauden died, and was succeeded by his friend the Sacrist. And so for twenty more years, his great buildings finished, Alan ruled the Monastery, and added to its possessions.¹⁹



St. Andrew's Shrine.

Alan de Walsingham

Twice during that time, at the voidance of the see, on the deaths of Bishops Montacute and Lisle, Alan de Walsingham was nominated Bishop by the monks, but their right of election was ignored by the Pope. At the age of threescore years and ten Alan died—in the year 1364 it is usually said, though Browne Willis, I know not on what authority, says 1373—and was buried in the great Church he had loved and served so well. On the great slab above his grave, just outside the Choir and within the circle of the morning light as it falls across the great octagon,—his noblest monument,—the Convent placed a brass effigy of Brother Alan, and in spite of Pope, represented it with the Episcopal Mitre on his head and Crozier in his hand, and at its foot they carved this epitaph:—

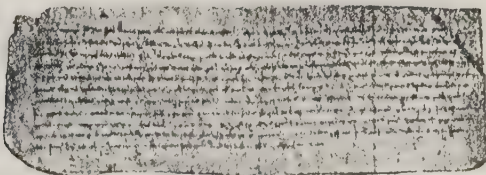
*“ Flos operatorum, dum vixit corpore sanus
Hic jacet ante Chorum Prior entumulatus Alanus,
Annis bis denis vivens fuit ipse sacrista
Plus tribus his plenius Prior ens perfecit et ista ;
Sacristariam quasi funditus edificavit
Mephale, Brame etiam huic Ecclesia cumulavit,
Pro veteri Turre, quæ quadam nocte cadebat,
Hanc Turrim proprie, quam cernitis hic faciebat
Et plures edes quia fecerat ipse Prioris
Detur ei sedes Cælo pro fine laboris.”*

And so let us leave the three friends among the greatest of the benefactors of Ely Minster—two resting within the Choir beyond the lights of the great Dome, and one, the greatest of all, resting at its threshold.

For all three men let us give God thanks, but especially for him, whose abounding glory of natural gifts, embodied in

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visible grandeur and beauty, has for centuries uplifted the hearts of his fellow-countrymen to the reverent worship of Almighty God, and whose faithful work still remains to teach to many generations, we may hope, of English craftsmen, this simple lesson—I will end as I began with John Ruskin's words—"that we are not sent into this world to do anything into which we cannot put our hearts. We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously: other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily. . . . There is dreaming enough, and earthliness enough, and sensuality enough in human existence without our turning the few glowing moments of it into mechanism: and since our life must at the best be but a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away, let it at least appear as a cloud in the height of Heaven, not as the thick darkness that broods over the blast of the furnace and rolling of the wheel."



A CONVENT DEED.



WITH ALAN'S SEAL.

NOTES TO LECTURE II

1. The first mention of Alan's name seems to be in the following amusing passage from Walsingham's History ("Historia Anglicana Thomæ Walsingham: Edward II. 1314," page 138 in the edition in the Rolls series) describing the visit of Edward II. to Ely, and his determination to solve the problem whether the Shrine at Ely or the Shrine at S. Alban's really contained the body of the English Protomartyr. Alan de Walsingham, because of his skill in the goldsmith's art, is required by the king to open the Shrine. The following is the passage:—

"In crastino Diei Palmarum, Rex iter versus insulam Eliensem arripuit; ubi solemnitatem Paschalem tenuit nobiliter et festive. Quo tempore, Elienses mentientes se corpus habere Sancti Albani, Anglorum Protomartyris, manifestissime confutavit coram regni nobilibus et monachis dicti loci. Jam cum ad alleviandum moram suam in Monasterio oculis diversa subjiceret, fanaque videre vellet ibidem, tandem incidit menti ejus, ut videret quid esset contentum in feretro quod 'Beati Albani' vocant, in ecclesia memorata. Dixitque Episcopo, qui tunc aderat, Elyensi; 'Scis,' inquit—'quod fratres mei apud sanctum Albanum corpus ejusdem Martyris putant veraciter se habere, et in hoc loco dicunt monachi se dicti Sancti corpus tenere; per animam,' inquit, 'Dei, volo videre in quo loco reliquias sancti corporis debeo potissimum venerari.' Cumque Presul verba Regis Priori et fratribus retulisset, illi, velut exsanques effecti, quid responderent, quid facerent, nesciebant; ex una parte timentes amittere tantum thesaurum, si verum esset quod apud eos foret: ex altera convinci de mendacio metuentes, quia hoc prædicaverant se habere.

Notes to Lecture on

Nesciebant enim pro tunc quid in dicto feretro continebatur. Episcopus, videas suorum consternationem, animavit eos, monens ut considerent quia non ad auferendum tantum thesaurum, sed venerandum, Rex aspectum reliquiarum requisivit. Ventum est igitur in ecclesiam: et feretrum solutum et apertum est *per quendam monachum 'Alanum de Walsingham' dictum, qui postea, proficientibus meritis, Prior factus est illius ecclesiæ: qui et ipse peritus erat in opere aurifabrili*, et ideo ad solvendum feretrum tunc vocatus. Rex vero, cum vidisset cunctos clavos extractos, et feretrum patifaciendum accessit et levavit operculum manu sua. Et ecce! vident locellum illum, a summo usque deorsum, quodam panno villosa ita occupatum, ut nihil posset aliud continere. In superiori vero parte vestimenti, conspiciunt cruoris coagula dense repersa, ita nova, ita recentia, quasi predie fuissent effusa. Constat hanc vestem fuisse caracallam quam Sanctus Albanus, in conversione, acceperat a Sancto Amphibalo, magistro suo, in signum religionis: in quo idem Martyr sententiam subiit capitalem. Et fas est credere quod at honorem sancti, divino miraculo sanguis ejus sic in hac veste servatus, sicut in pulvere sui sepulchri per multa sæcula legitur conservatus. Cujus pulveris massam, in qua rudebat adhuc sanguis martyris, Sanctus Germanus, Altissiodorensis episcopus, secum abstulit, et detulit ad Natale secum Altissiodoro, capellam construens in honorem Martyris memorati.

“Rex igitur et omnes assistentes, de tanto miraculo stupefacti proni corruerunt in terram: et facta est non parva hæsitatio quis accederet ad deponendum operculum et feretrum contingendum. Tandem, Rex ipse, cæteris animosior, operculum detraxit ad locum suum: et tunc primo cognoverunt Elyenses quid de Sancto Albano haberent, quid non haberent, cum oculata fide cernerent in dicto feretro, præter caracallam, nihil omnino contineri. Rex vero, hilarior effectus de rei comperta veritate, dedit illic dona varia residuum temporis quo mansit ibidem duceus in summa

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lætitia, frequenter conferens de merito Martyris Albani, et gloria, et judicans non sine divina factum providentia ut in duobus locis tam celebribus specialis veneratio Martyris haberetur. Et ait Eliensibus; ‘Gaudete de Dei munere, gaudete de tanti Martyris meritis et sanctitate: quia, si prout dicitis, hic Deus per illum plura facit miracula ratione vestis, credatis quod apud Sanctum Albanum ampliora facit miracula, ratione corporis illic santissimi quiescentis.’”

Cf. also Matt. Paris Vita Alfrici undecimi abbatis Ecclesiæ S. Albani.

2. These Rolls, which number 288 in all, are distributed among the most important officers of the convent as follows:—

	Rolls.
(1.) <i>Camerarius</i> , or Treasurer of the Monastery, 8 Edward III. to 23 Henry VI.	33
(2.) <i>Feretarius</i> , Henry V. and VI.	5
(3.) <i>Custos Capellæ Mariæ</i> , 30 Edward III. to Henry VII.	14
(4.) <i>Granatarius</i> , or Steward of the Granary, 1 Edward II. to Henry VIII.	53
(5.) <i>Elemosinarius</i> , or Almoner, 1 Edward III. to Henry VI. (also a Book of the Elemosinarius).	13
(6.) <i>Hortillarius</i>	8
(7.) <i>Precentor</i> , 3 Edward III. to Henry VIII.	10
(8.) <i>Sacrist</i> , 8 of which are Alan de Walsingham's, 16 Edward II. to 13 Edward III.	44
(9.) <i>Cellerarius</i> , 8 Edward I. to Edward IV.	39
(10.) <i>Pitanciarius</i> , 3 Edward III. to Henry VIII.	17
(11.) <i>Rosarius</i>	23
(12.) <i>Thesaurarius</i>	29
Total	<hr/> 288 <hr/>

Notes to Lecture on

3. Camerarius Roll of 8 Edward III. (1334) reduced to the form of a modern balance-sheet.

RECEIPTS

Arrears,	£2	8	9
From the Treasury for the customary payments (liberacione), summer and winter,	62	13	4
From the Church of Wycham,	12	7	11½
„ „ Hawkston,	28	0	9½
From rents in Downham,	0	3	0
„ „ Lakynhythe,	0	3	0
From a certain elder orchard in Ely,	0	4	0
From rents in Elm and Coldham,	0	6	8
„ „ Wisbech and Leverington,	0	1	0
„ „ Newnham,	0	1	0
Sundries,	0	0	10
From garden fruit and herbage,	0	4	4
	£107	4	9½

PAYMENTS

Tithe,	£1	6	11
Alms on the death of a monk,	0	10	0
The Warden for his cloak,	0	13	4
To his colleague for tunic,	0	13	4
To the deacons and sub-deacons,	0	4	0
To the Pitanciaris for pittances,	0	16	8
To the Prior for cloth sack,	0	10	0
To the Prior for his livery,	2	0	0
For the "O et olla,"	1	0	5
To the Bishop for boots, pellice, and leggings,	1	0	0
Oblations,	0	0	6
For the bloodlettings,	1	16	0
For gifts to guests,	1	10	8

Alan de Walsingham

Stipends,	£4	0	4
Clothing of the Convent,	87	18	11½
Expenses of the House,	0	6	9½
„ strangers, &c., for the minuti,	0	5	0

	£104	12	11
Balance carried forward,	2	11	10½

£107 4 9½

4. "Pro O et olla."

The following are all the entries in the Ely Camerarius Rolls of this curious item:—

8 Edward III. Datum sacristi pro O et olla 13/4. Species pro conventu ad O et olla 7/1.

9 Edward III. In O et olla speciebus et cervisia emptis 16/1.

10 Edward III. Rogero de Saxmundham pro O et olla pro Stallis factis 13/4.

11 Edward III. Liberati pro OO et olla Radō de Saxmundham 13/4.

20 Edward III. Solut' ad opus novi chori pro OO et olla 13/4.

31 Edward III. In OO et olla 13/4.

32 Edward III., pro OO et olla 13/4.

K



TWO CANOPIES FROM THE STALLS

Notes to Lecture on

34 Edward III. appears under the distinct Titulus "O et olla"—solut^{us} pro O et olla 13/4.

Neither the Titulus nor mention of item appears again until 12 Richard II., when under titulus "O et olla" the item is "nil." No further mention in the Camerarius Rolls, but in the Precentor's Rolls there are three entries under this head—13 Edward III. pro O et olla 13/2½; 15 Edward III. fabricæ novi chori £5 pro O et olla et convocacione Conventus; and 15 Henry VIII. expns le OO hoc anno 8d.

5. Fuller's "Church History," vi. book, page 299.

6. Fuller's "Church History," vi. book, page 298.

7. "Qui quidem frater Johannes (de Wysbech) in honore semper virginis Mariæ in Festo Annunciationis suæ fabricam dictæ capellæ incepit anno domini mccccxi incepit. Cujus fabricæ lapidem primum posuit vir venerabilis et artificiosus frater Alanus de Walsingham tunc temporis supprior Elyensis" ("Anglia Sacra," i. 651). John de Wysbech had the entire charge of the erection of this chapel for twenty-eight years and thirteen weeks. He died of the plague on the 18th June 1349. From the fourteen extant Computus Rolls of the Custos Capellæ Beatæ Mariæ Virginis, ranging from 30 Edward III. to 4 Henry VII., the following list of Custodes has been compiled:—

1321. John de Wisbech.
1350. Ralph Rysing.
1356. Will. de Copham.
1364. John de Walsingham.
1367. Thos. de Stokton.
Wm. Thetford.
1379. Peter de Norwykes.
1381. William de Thetford.
1383. John Bukton.
1399. Will. de Thetford.

1418. John de Fyncham.
1419. Henry Langham.
1420. Thos. Rameseye.
1423. John Hatfeld.
1426. Steph. Walsingham.
1444. Thos. Welles.
1446. Roger Wysbech.
Nicholas Derby.
1453. Roger Whyte.
1467. Rd. Lynne.

Alan de Walsingham

John Hadnam.	1479. Robt. Colville.
Gilbert Lakynheth.	1487. Wm. Tylney.
Thos. Welles.	1488. Thos. Downham.
1470. Rd. Barber.	1499. Will. Colchester.
1478. Thos. Denver.	1451. Mich. Barnyngham.

8. That the great east window is a later insertion of Bishop Barnet we gather from the following item in the Sacrist's Roll of the 48 Ed. iii. (1374):—"De receptis de executoribus domini Johannis Barnet nuper episcopi eliensis ad facturam cujusdam fenestræ in capella Beatæ Mariæ juxta magnum altare factæ in anno precedente xx. li."

Beneath this window there are the remains of an elaborate canopied Reredos, which was erected in the 13 Richard II. (1390). The Sacrist Roll of that year is a mere fragment, but it contains a summary of the money spent during four years in building a Reredos of Burwell stone. The following is the entry:—"Item. In feodo magistri Roberti de Wodehirst, magistri predicti operis per ann. iiii. li. preter mensam et robam ex conventionem xxxiii. li. xvs. vd. . . . In 1 poole cont' xxiv. ped' ad magistrum Rob' ad mensurandum opus suum iiiiid."

9. Sculptures of the Lady Chapel at Ely. Published Nutt, Strand, London, 1895.

10. "Anglia Sacra," i. 643-4.

11. "Cathedral Cities of Ely and Norwich," drawn and etched by R. Farren, with an Historical Introduction by E. A. Freeman, D.C.L.

12. Among the many details which Canon Stewart has extracted from the Sacrist Rolls, few are perhaps more interesting than those which record the payments made for the construction of the wooden lantern and its supporting Dome. From the Roll of the 8 Edward III. (1334) it would appear that the heaviest item in that year was a sum of £41, 19s. 10d., paid to carpenters

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and sawyers who were working at the lantern, under the superintendence of William de Houk. Eight carpenters were boarded at the Prior's expense for nine weeks, while employed in raising the heavy timbers of the upper story of the new Campanile. These are the items:—"Expensæ domus. Mem^m. quod viii carpentarii steterunt in mensa cum famulis Dñi per ix sept^r pro exaltatione magnarum postium in novo choro. In cxviii. cleys emptis pro steyringe xviii. ii.d.: pretium cleye id. ob., plus in toto xid. In . . . nayle viiis. viiid. pro qualibet duoden' cariaud' a novomercato usque Ely ix. plus in toto ix. In empt' pro steyringes per vices xiiid. In i ligamine ferreo fabricando de ferro domini pro le bekerel cum termine . . . et i barre elong' pro magnis postibus exaltandis ix. In i serrura empta pro postis in le viz in novo campanile iid. In gunfis factis pro eodem iiii. In Curialitate data carpentariis per vices et satoribus, ut patet per parcelas xxiis. viiid. Item. Soluti eisdem pro (? Nialo) ex conventionem xiiis.

Summa lxvs. viiid.

The great posts here mentioned are no doubt the great angle timbers of the wooden octagon, which still, after five centuries, remain in their original position. Indeed Sir Gilbert Scott in one of his reports to the Dean and Chapter at the time of the repair of the Lantern in 1862, says that he had the satisfaction of proving that the greater part of the timber work was original, "having from the bottom to the top the carpenter's marks of Walsingham's workmen, by which having prepared their work in the field, they were enabled to put it together in its place." It is recorded ("Anglia Sacra," i. 644) that to find eight sufficiently large and sound oak trees to form the great angle posts, Alan had much trouble, "searching far and wide and with the greatest difficulty finding them at last, paying a great price for them, and by land and sea transporting them to Ely." Mr Kett, the Cambridge builder, who repaired the woodwork, under Sir Gilbert

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Scott in 1862, tells me that he made accurate measurements of these angle posts at the time, and that they are 63 feet long, giving a sapless scantling of 3 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 8 inches. It would be impossible, he added, to procure such oak trees in England to-day. This giant tower of wood, itself nearly 80 feet in height, of which these eight great oak trees are the skeleton, suspended as it is at a height of 94 feet from the ground, over an aperture 74 feet in diameter, containing a prodigious quantity of timber and lead, is a masterpiece of mechanical skill and ingenuity. The principle of its construction is briefly this. The eight angle posts, forming, as I have said, the skeleton of the Lantern, are framed into an octagonal oak curb, each side of which is 13 feet in length, giving a clear internal diameter of 29 feet 6 inches. The octagonal sides of this kerb are set obliquely to the faces of the stone octagon. This oblique setting of the lantern enables two radial diagonal struts to be fixed to each of the eight angle posts, their lower ends resting on corbels 32 feet below, fixed in the walls, immediately above the capitals of the pillars, from which spring the arches of nave, transepts, and choir, thus securing irresistible abutment and wind braces. The skill evinced by this radial principle cannot be overrated. The vaulting ribs of the apparent dome, as seen from below, carry of course none of the weight of the Lantern, and are indeed a merely ornamental casing to the radial struts which do the real work. The infinite variety of curved lines of these vaulted ribs is mainly due to the oblique setting of the regular octagon of the Lantern in relation to the irregular stone octagon below, though there is no doubt also a certain twisting and distortion of the ribs caused by the summer heat of five centuries. Level with the lower kerb of the Lantern, though of course invisible from below, a floor of oak joists is constructed, also radial probably for wind-brace effect; and again at a further height of eighteen

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feet, level with the sill of the Lantern windows, and just below the topmost external parapet of the stone octagon, a second radial framework is constructed, forming a roof to the outer octagon. Above this level 15 feet higher rises the fan vaulting of the Lantern as seen from below; the ribs radiating into a magnificently carved oak boss, representing the Christ in Benediction, the central point of which is 152 feet 6 inches from the pavement below. The Bell Chamber above this vault carries up the full height of the Lantern another 30 feet.

THE LANTERN BELLS.

It has been doubted by some whether this uppermost storey of the Lantern was ever intended as a Bell Chamber. But that, at any rate, it was used as such, the following two interesting quotations will, I think, prove.

The first is from quaint old Fuller. In his "Worthies of England," Book I. 149, speaking of Ely Minster, he says:—"The Lantern therein built by Bishop Hotham, wherein the labour of twenty years, and five thousand ninety-four pounds, eighteen shillings tenpence halfpenny farthing was expended is a masterpiece of architecture. When the bells ring, the woodwork thereof shaketh and gapeth (no defect, but perfection of structure) and exactly chocketh into the joints again; so that it may pass for the lively emblem of the sincere Christian, who though he hath *motum trepidationis* of fear and trembling, stands firmly fixed on the basis of a true faith."

And the second quotation is this from Bishop Harvey Goodwin. In a footnote to his essay entitled the "Recollections of a Dean" in Dean Howson's volume of "Cathedral Essays," p. 21, the Bishop says, "It was a question when I first went to Ely, and when the restoration of Alan de Walsingham's Lantern was undertaken as a memorial to Dean Peacock how the bells in the Lantern were rung; in fact, some bold sceptics questioned

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whether there ever were any bells, notwithstanding distinct documentary evidence of their existence. One day while the work of restoration was going on, a carpenter (Thomas Holmes, elected Bedesman of the Cathedral 1894) told me that he had found the marks of the ropes: and he showed me, upon one of the vertical beams forming the south side of the Lantern, three parallel grooves which had evidently been worn by ropes. My remark was, 'If these be the marks of the bell-ropes, there ought to be four, as I know that there were four bells'; a little examination soon brought to light the fourth rope mark. I then directed the carpenter to remove some of the wooden groining below, in order that we might see where the rope-marks pointed: he did so, and we found that they pointed to the base of the eastern column of the arch of the south transept. Here, therefore, stood the brother, whose business it was to chime the bells: from the position occupied by him the ropes would clear the stalls which then extended under the Lantern; and to complete the story I found in the discovery the explanation of two marks in the pillar near which the chimer stood. I had never been able to guess what they were, but I now found that they were the marks of the pegs upon which the ends of the ropes were twisted when not used for chiming. Thus the problem of ringing the bells in Ely Lantern was completely solved."

The documentary evidence to which Bishop Goodwin alludes is, however, itself quite conclusive as to the existence of bells in the Lantern in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. In the Sacrist Roll of 31 Edward III. (1357) new ropes were bought for bells in both the Lantern tower and the great West tower:—"In xii cordis emptis pro campanis in utroque campanile xxxiii s." In the Roll of 11 Richard II. (1387) money was paid for hanging bells "super chorum," as well as for repairs of machinery in "le olde stepil"; and again in the

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Roll of 17 Edward IV. (1477):—"In 1 clapyr ad quartam campanam in Lanterna Emend' et faciend' xvi d." Still later 1 Henry VIII. (1509):—"In denarius solutis pro quatuor cordis pro campanis in lucerna (Lanterna) et aliis necessariis, vs. iid." And at the Dissolution of the Monastery we are told there were "six bells great and small in the Lantern," beside the same number "in the great steeple." Finally, in Essex's report on the condition of the Lantern in 1757, he recommends "that the old bell-frames and other lumber be taken out of the Lantern." It may be interesting to record the names of the six bells in "the great steeple," which from the Sacrist Rolls of 16 Edward II. (1322) and 19 Edward III. (1345) we find were "Bannse, Peter, Jesus, John, Mary, and Walsingham," the last four being cast four years after Alan de Walsingham had been elected Prior.

13. Sacrist Roll 13 Edward III. (1339):—"Item. Soluti Johanni de Burwell pro una imagine tallianda super le principale keye volte superioris ii s. et ad mensam Dñi."

14. For full description of these legends see note 14, p. 72, to previous lecture.

15. The contemporary sculptured portraits of the three friends are among the most interesting personal memorials in the Cathedral. They occur at the extremities of the hood-mouldings of the four smaller arches of the octagon, opening obliquely into the aisles, which are finished with most vigorously carved heads. Two of these on the south-western arch are obviously grotesques, but the other six are as obviously portraits. The two heads on the north-eastern arch have always been said to be portraits of Queen Philippa and Edward III.; on the south-eastern arch, of Bishop Hotham and Prior Crauden, and on the north-western arch of Alan de Walsingham, and of some secular personage with long hair, traditionally thought to be Alan's master mason, but whether Peter Quadratarius, or Thomas Attegrene, is not

Alan de Walsingham

said. All these heads, with one exception, alas! are most life-like and characteristic. The heads of the king and queen and the master mason are specially vigorous: Bishop Hotham's is just such as we might expect in the portrait of a Lord Chancellor, who is declared by the historian to be "a prudent and pious man, but of no learning." The head of Prior Crauden too is especially delightful, a strong, handsome face, dignified, benignant, pleasant, a full, frank, eloquent eye, a mouth intelligent and firm, and yet with a merry smile, lurking unmistakably in its corner, altogether such a man as we feel might not only rightly be Queen Philippa's friend, as the chronicler says, "*propter amabilem et graciosam ipsius affabilitatem et eloquentiam*" ("*Anglia Sacra*," i. 650), but one also to whom, through twenty years of the loyal subordination due from Sacrist to Prior, the intrepid originality and genius of Alan might nevertheless look for the steady sympathy and ungrudging confidence of the friend and father. The one head, however, which one would most wish to see, that of Alan himself, is mutilated and spoilt. It is very disappointing. For one cannot help feeling that the vigorous hand of the sculptor, who has given us so life-like a picture of the Prior, must surely have intended to give us a worthy portrait of the bright, keen, sensitive artist face, as we must imagine it, of the man whom his contemporaries called "*Flos operatorum vir venerabilis et artificiosus Frater*."

16. "*Anglia Sacra*," i. 649, and a Roll of 18 Edward II. (1325), where among the expenses of the year is an item showing that Prior Crauden's Chapel was being built at that time:—"In nova constructione Capellæ et Cameræ Domini Prioris cxxxviii. li. viii. s. v.d. In donis, x. li. xix s. iii d. unde ad novam fabricam ecclesiæ et capellæ vi. li."

17. The whole description in the "*Anglia Sacra*" of this model Prior, his benign government of the Convent, the saintliness and sweetness of his character, his nightly vigils in the little chapel,

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his many prayers for the good of his church and brethren, his munificence, his princely hospitality, his learning, his stateliness and dignity, his friendship with Queen Philippa, is so touching, and written evidently with so tender and sympathetic a pen, that I cannot refrain from quoting the whole passage:—

“Frater namque Johannes de Craudene, Prior Elyensis, dilectus Deo et hominibus, cujus memoria in benedictione sit sempiterna. Diebus enim suis cum omni pace et tranquillitate



PRIOR CRAUDEN

ac sacræ religionis dulcedine, sicut pastor pacificus, toto cordis conamine conventum suum tractavit caritative. Ipse enim fabricari fecit (Alanus de Walsingham) ad hospitium Prioris, novam capellam mirandi decoris, in qua Deo vota laudis ex affectu reddit cordis; ubi etiam nocturnas excubias ac spirituales meditationes per dies et noctes frequentius exercebat. Nam sicut illi, qui continue secum erant a secretis, testati sunt, quod qualiter nocte consuevit assurgere et

Capellam suam solus adire, nisi magna præpediretur infirmitate; ubi cæpit diutius orare et preces Deo multiplices cum gemitu cordis efferre: ac se et Ecclesiam suam et omnia Ecclesiæ negotia Deo devotè recommendare. Ipse autem pulcher erat aspectu et corpore formosus, ac in oculo omni apparuit gratosus. Ita quod venerabilis Domina Philippa, nobilis Anglorum Regina, ipsum in amicitiam præclaram collegit et familiaritatem, tum propter amabilem et graciosam ipsius affabilitatem et eloquentiam, tum propter gratam et multum sibi acceptabilem in quodam adventu suo apud Ely susceptionem ac solemnpnem et splendidam mensalem procurationem, necnon et munerum magnorum in fine sibi et suis largicionem.”

18. Anglia Sacra, i. 650.

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19. The memorial slab to Bishop Hotham is new; but the slab of Prior Crauden is the ancient slab from his altar tomb, which was removed by Bishop Gunning soon after the Restoration. Mr Hardman restored the brass and inscription upon the ancient matrix.

20. One of the most important of these possessions is that of the Manor of Mephale, which is also mentioned in Alan's epitaph. An extremely interesting Roll of 35 Edward III. (1361) gives full particulars of this purchase, and a complete list of the contributions by each monk in the convent towards the purchase-money, headed by the Prior. How keen the Convent must have been to secure this manor is evident from some of the items in the list of donations, *e.g.* 'de vestibus venditis,' and following entries. The Roll is headed:—

"Pro perquisitione manerii de Mephale cum advocacione ecclesie et pro mortificatione ejusdem facienda."

Reduced to the form of a modern Balance-Sheet, the Roll reads as follows:—

SUBSCRIBERS WITHIN THE CONVENT.

Alan de Walsingham, Prior,	£66	13	4
Thos. de Stokton, sub-prior,	6	0	0
Robert de Sutton, sacrist,	8	13	4
Fr. Wm. Bordeleys,	0	13	4
Rd. de Ixworth,	0	10	0
Fr. John de Welles,	2	0	0
Fr. Wm. de Spaldyng,	0	13	4
Fr. Peter de Norwych,	1	0	0
Fr. Robert de Ixworth,	0	10	0
Fr. John de St. Ives,	0	13	4
Fr. Wm. de Sneterton,	0	10	0
Fr. Roger de Hamerton,	0	10	0

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Fr. Henry de Wykes,	£0	10	0
Fr. Wm. de Ryston,	1	0	0
Fr. Simon de Banneham,	0	13	4
Fr. John de Walsyngham,	0	13	4
Fr. Simon de Broughton,	0	10	0
Fr. Thomas de Aldeburgh,	2	0	0
Fr. Wm. de Aldeby,	0	10	0
Fr. John de Ely,	1	0	0
Fr. William de Hadham,	0	6	0
Fr. Wm. de Welles,	0	10	0
Fr. John de Bukton,	1	0	0
Fr. Thomas de Somersham,	0	6	8
Alii fratres de Conventu,	1	0	0
	<hr/> £98 6 0 <hr/>		

But this is wrongly cast up in the Roll as . . . £97 6 0

OTHER DONATIONS (*Donationes Forinsecæ*).

Ecclesia de Sutton,	£24	0	0
Extra Cancellariam, <i>per manus Cancellariorum</i> ,	6	0	0
Graciae fratris Ade de Lynstede,	24	0	12
Bladum Manerii de Mephale vendit,	20	0	0
John de Wesenham,	13	0	0
Juliana Hundreder pro pitancia Robt. quondam viri sui,	1	0	0
Alexander Wygeron,	2	0	0
John Deynes, Propositus de Sutton,	1	0	0
Symon West, „ Wycham,	0	13	4
Fr. John de Gernewelle pro peciis argenti furatis,	0	13	4
John Lyomis,	1	0	0
Fr. Thos. de Bytham, pro pitancia sua,	1	0	0
Laurence de Conweye, pro cipho suo,	0	13	4

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Legacy by William de Stantestede, . . .	£5	0	0
„ William West, . . .	1	0	0
„ Thos., clericus Johannis Brisote, . . .	0	13	4
de vestibus fr. Rd. de Soham venditis, . . .	1	8	5
de 12 peciis et 22 coclearibus argent. venditis ex Refectorio de consensu Prioris et Conventus, .	11	19	5
de 5 veteribus Cyphis murreis vendit ex Refector. cum cypho ffris Rt. de Bury, . . .	2	8	0
Extra Thesaurariam Prioris et conventus, . . .	23	6	8
Extra eandem Thesaurariam, . . .	10	17	2
pro 1 messuagio et placea vacua perquirendis de Thos. Chene in Mephale, . . .	5	0	0
Total Receipts, .	£254	0	0

EXPENSES.

Perquisitio manerii de Mephale. To Master Thos. de Elteslee, Senior, Rector Ecclesie de Landbeche and Dns. Nicholas West, Rect. of S. Andrew Hyuston, attorneys of Sir Henry Coleville,

Ad vendendum maner' de Meph. cum advoca-
tione ecclesie post mortem dict. Sir Henry—
pro perquisitione dict. maner' et advocacy
una cum stauro et blado in dict. manerio
existentibus et ad dict. maner. pertinentibus
. . . (pro bladis et stauro, £30) . . . £236 13 4

(Salva dominae Johannaë nuper uxori dni Willi
de Colne militis quadam annua pensione 20 mar-
carum argent. percipiend. annuatim ad totam vitam
dict. Johannaë.)

To John Chene for messuage and vacant place in
Mephale, quondam Willi Muchet, . . . 5 0 0

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<i>Pro mortificatione manerii.</i> Wm. de Wysbeche going to London and back for a brief (the brief was 18d.) 'ad quod damnum' with horse and boy, 5 days,	£ 0 7 5½
Wm. de Wysbeche going to London and back con- ferring with the king's Escaetor, giving him the brief and inquiring its virtue, 7 days,	0 7 11½
Soluti clerico Escaetoris pro dicto precepto habendo Ballivo Libertatis,	0 2 0
Fratres Robt. de Sutton (sacrist) and John de Ives, senior, going to Waterbeach to Escaetor "ad inquirendum virtute brevis et pro hominibus de Jurati,	1 9 8½
To the clerk, Roger de Harleston 'scribenti vere- dictum Inquisitionis,	0 2 0
Wm. de Storford Escaetor of the king 'pro labore suo' (preter i. pipam vini de Ely),	2 0 0
Wm. de Repynghall, his clerk,	0 13 4
Philip Norman, Ballivus Libertatis,	0 13 4
"Famulis eorundem,"	0 2 0
Dati hominibus de Inquisitione,	2 15 0
Robt. de Sutton and Wm. de Wysbeche going to London and back "pro carta dmi. Regis impetrand. de licencia perquirendi dict. maner., de Willō de Wysbeche capellano et Rd. de Warenton, clerk,"	0 13 4
Soluti diversis clericis de cancellaria et aliis hom- inibus auxil pro copia inquisitionis habenda extracancellariam et pro predict. carta licencie habenda et scribenda,	0 12 10
Dno. David Wollor pro auxilio suo,	1 0 0
pro feodo dict. carte de licencia habend. in cancellaria	1 6 8
I hanaper pro dicta carta custodienda,	0 0 3

Alan de Walsingham

Wm. de Wysbeche going to Cambridge ad
loquens cum Joh. Chene pro tenemento ab
eo empto,

£0 0 4

Total expenses . £253 19 6½

“Et de 5½d. quos soluit super computum et quietus est.”

21. The epitaph of Alan de Walsingham is quoted by Wharton in the “Anglia Sacra,” i. 684, word for word as I have given it in the text of my Lecture. He places it beneath the title—

“Epitaphium tumulo illius inscriptum sequitur,”

The words, however, seem to be part of a still larger fragment of verse, quoted, with variations and omissions in several of the MS. copies of the “Historia Eliensis.” The most complete form is as follows:—

Hæc sunt Elyæ, Lanterna, Capella Mariæ,
Atque Molendinum, multum dans vinea Vinum.
Continet insontes, quos vallant undique pontes
Hos ditant montes, nec desunt flumina, fontes.

Nomen ab anguillâ ^{ducit} Insula nobilis illa.
 _{rapit}

Vos qui regnorum vidistis opus variorum
Hunc scitote Chorum pre cunctis esse decorum,
Quem frater Alanus fecit Constructor humanus
Tunc Sacrista pius, nunc Prior egregius,
Flos operatorum . . . etc (as in text of lecture).

The first four lines of this poem are quoted by Wharton as a motto on the back of the title page of the “Historia Eliensis,” i. 592, with a title “Carmen Anonymi Historiæ Eliensis præmissum;” and the concluding lines “Flos operatorum,” etc., as I have said, as Alan’s epitaph on page 684. The copy in the British Museum (MS. Cotton, Titus A1) quotes the first two lines and the fourth, omitting the third, and then, after a blank space of five lines, proceeds with the epitaph “Flos operatorum . . .”



SEAL OF ALAN DE WALSINGHAM

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TURNBULL AND SPEARS
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